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Hafa Adai!

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Torres: All investors are welcome, not just China

PROCLAMATION SIGNING ERWIN ENCINARES

Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (not facing the photo), Jill Derickson, and Tania Mendiola watch Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog sign a proclamation spreading awareness about bereaved parents in July.

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres underscored his administration's stance of putting out the welcome mat for all investors in the CNMI in reaction to an American report on the possible implications of China's presence on U.S. interests in the Pacific.

Reacting to a report from the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission, or USCESRC, Torres stated that he welcomes investors from all over the world—not just China—to invest in the CNMI.

He said this welcome is extended to all investors without favoring specific countries.

"They decided to come here and make their investments

See TORRES on Page 4

US military aims for $1 billion missile defense radar in Hawaii

By AUDREY McAVOY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOLULU (AP)—The U.S. military wants to install missile defense radar in Hawaii to identify any ballistic missiles that are fired from North Korea or elsewhere, officials said Tuesday.

The $1 billion system would spot warheads on missiles headed for Hawaii and other U.S. states, and provide that information to ground-based interceptors in Alaska designed to shoot them down.

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In this Nov. 27, 2017, photo released by the U.S. Northern Command Alaskan NORAD Region/Alaskan Command/11th Air Force shows the Cobra Dane radar, a single faced ground-based, L-band phased-array radar located at Eareckson Air Station, Shemya, Alaska. The U.S. military wants to install missile defense radar, similar to this one shown, in Hawaii to identify any ballistic missiles that are fired from North Korea or elsewhere, officials said Tuesday, June 26, 2018. AP

Man accused of raping ex-GF

A man allegedly took his former girlfriend from work to his house on Monday morning on a threat that he would post her nude pictures at her office, and then raped her.

Joseph Aquino Saimon, 42, was arrested Tuesday morning on charges of sexual assault in the first degree, kidnapping, and assault with a dangerous weapon.

Police said Saimon admitted in an interview that he threatened to post the victim's nude photos if she would not go with him but claims they had consensual sex at his house.

At a hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge

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Rota police academy has 17 cadets

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Rota Department of Public Safety's first police academy has managed to draw 17 police cadets, two cadets for the Division of Fish and Wildlife, and three for the Division of Customs.

Rota DPS director Eusebio Manglona said they are just waiting for the Northern Marianas College to have the academy training accredited.

"We hired already but we're just doing the administrative side," Manglona

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Humphries takes on challenge, shatters stereotypes

JON PEREZ

Brianna Humphries, center, poses with officials of the Northern Marianas Trades Institute after receiving the Tun Donicio Award for Construction Trades in last week's Denim and Diamonds Gala at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Overcoming a challenge is not something new for Brianna Tudela Humphries. She chose to study construction trades at the Northern Marianas Trades Institute, shattering the stereotype that it's a man's world.

She has since learned carpentry, electrical, and masonry at NMTI. Now, she is into welding. She is hoping the skills that she has learned would land her a job either at the Department of Public Works or at Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

Humphries has been diagnosed with bipolar disorder—a serious condition that manifests itself in extreme mood swings and causes risky behavior. Yet the love and support of her family and friends—especially her mother and fiancée—has helped her pull through.

"I understand that this [construction trades] is considered a man's world, but if I didn't have the support of my mother, fiancée, and my family, it would have been hard for me," said Humphries, who was presented with NMTI's Donicio Torres Award for Construction Trades Student Achievement in last week's Denim and Diamonds Gala at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall.

"I have disabilities…and without the support that I received, I won't be where I am today. Today, in our community, if you don't get that support, you can't get that far. I won't be where I am right now without the support of the people around me."

She credits her mother for inspiring her the most and sacrificing a lot to help her. "Everybody that I've met and I know, all of their support and love made me become a stronger person. But my mother has truly inspired me the most."

She credits her mother with understanding her disability and helping her and the people around them gain an understanding about her condition. "Without her, I won't be here," added Humphries.

Construction trades seems to be in her blood after both of her grandfathers—both father and mother side—were a former welder and construction technician, respectively. "I've learned a lot from my family—both of their experiences—and the training that I got at NMTI."

She had just finished NMTI's welding program and some of the metal art that she created were auctioned in last Friday's NMTI Denim and Diamonds Gala at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa. Humphries is now finishing her construction technology course.

Fishing base red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged the Garapan Fishing base and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this location for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from this location contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

CHCC seeks public's help for grant applications

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is seeking the public's help in providing input for its annual block grant applications to various federal agencies, with the funds to be used for its programs in the CNMI.

The CNMI Maternal and Child Health Bureau is asking for additional information for its public health program's annual report to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' MCHB.

The annual report of activities for fiscal year 2017 and its plan of activities for the whole year of 2019—from Oct. 1 2018, to Sept. 30, 2019—are included in the 2019 CNMI MCH Block Grant.

CHCC's MCH has set a July 10 deadline for the community to submit their inputs for its block grant application's annual report and plan.

The annual report and plan is a requirement in the block grant application in order for federal money to continue funding the state's Title V program that serves mothers, pregnant women, infants, children, adolescents, and other children with special healthcare needs.

"It is the CNMI MCH program's mission to promote and improve the health and wellness of these domains through the delivery of quality prevention programs and effective partnerships," they said in a statement.

For more information, call MCHB administrator Heather Pangelinan at 6648701 or email at hsantosmch@gmail.com.

NCD public hearing

CHCC is also seeking the public's contributions in providing information for the Preventive Health and Health Services block grant report that they would submit to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention office for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Support.

PHHS' block grant provides states and territories funds in addressing their unique public health needs through innovative ways.

CHCC has used the grant to address the burden caused by non-communicable diseases through collaborative projects and programs with other government, private, and nonprofit organizations.

CHCC's PHHS block grant program will be holding a public hearing on July 3, Tuesday, from 5pm to 6pm at the Public Health Preparedness conference room across the hospital gift shop.

The public hearing will focus on gathering information from members of the community for recommendations that would form part of the 2018 PHHS block grant work plan.

For more information, call Amber Lynn Mendiola at 2368710 or at email amendiola@ncdb@gmail.com.

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Man on bail for sexual assault arrested for allegedly violating his release conditions

A 37-year-old man who is out on bail on charges of allegedly sexually assaulting a 15-year-old boy and beating him up was arrested last Monday in Koblerville for allegedly leaving his house several times in violation of the terms and conditions of his release.

Jorlard Osilek Borja was taken before Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio Tuesday afternoon for alleged violation of the terms and conditions of his release.

Kim-Tenorio imposed a $5,000 cash bail.

According to Attorney General's Investigation Division investigator Lawrence L. Pangelinan, Borja was charged last September with sexual assault in the second degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Last April 10, the court allowed Borja to post bail and placed him under house arrest with several terms and conditions.

Pangelinan said an eyewitness disclosed to him that Borja left his home without his third-party custodian and drove an individual to her home last June 21.

The eyewitness also reported that last May 13, the defendant again left his house without his third-party custodian to pick up an individual at her residence.

The eyewitness further revealed that on the same day, May 13, Borja left his house with his third-party custodian and a minor in one vehicle to attend a party in Chalan Kanoa.

The party venue is allegedly located within one mile of the alleged victim's residence.

Pangelinan said he checked Borja's residence in Koblerville last June 22 twice and last June 23 once, but no one came out. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Young talents to raise funds for off-island contest

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Three young Commonwealth talents have organized a concert this Saturday to raise funds for the upcoming World Championships of Performing Arts competition that they will be attending.

Erica Tubera, Lawrence Tubera, and Cire Durano are all gearing up for the competition of a lifetime this July that will be held in Long Beach, California.

For these young talents, the greatest struggle is funding to make it to where their dreams lie so they are asking for the help of the community.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left to right Erica Tubera, Lawrence Tubera, and Cire Durano will be representing the Commonwealth in the pristine, international competition called the World Championships of Performing arts that will be held on Long Beach California from July 6 to July 15.

Not only is this concert intended to raise money for the team's daily expenses but to also give their supporters a great show, according to Erica Tubera, "mainly to give back to those who have been supporting us since the beginning, especially our families, friends, and the government.

"We also want to showcase the talents that we will bring to Long Beach," she added.

The fundraising event will be held this Saturday, June 30, at the Hard Rock Café, from 6pm to 9pm, with an entrance fee of $25.

Erica Tubera is also looking for sponsors for the event.

The concert will highlight the performances of the Tubera siblings and Durano and will also feature Justin Tubera, Erma Tubera, Maggie Naputi, Neil Fama, Saipan Music and Dance Studio, Demalynn Pagarao, and Hopwood's 7-Nation Band.

According to Erica Tubera, in the process of conducting a background check on her, the World Championships of Performing Arts also discovered her brother and her boyfriend.

"A few months ago, I saw an ad online about the World Championships of Performing Arts. I decided to go and register. A few days later, I got an email from the recruiter who asked more about me. She looked through my YouTube channel and my social media accounts there and found my brother, Lawrence, and also Cire. She did more of her research and she told me that she wanted them to join, too, but she will have to show our profiles to the agents to see if we meet the criteria to join this competition," she said.

Tubera added that the competition would feature talents from 60 countries around the world.

"They showcase their talents in singing, dancing, acting… and other…performing arts. This competition will be held in Long Beach, California from July 6 to 15, but we will fly and arrive there on July 4 to get over jet lag," she said.

The trio has already gained some financial support from the Commonwealth government as well as friends and family members.

Power and water interruptions

There will be a scheduled power interruption today, June 28, and June 30 and a water service interruption today.

The power outage today will occur from 9am to 1pm at the Wireless Ridge. It will affect Chanal Savana. No water well or wastewater lift station will be affected. Two power poles will be replaced.

On Saturday, June 30, the power outage from 5am to 10am will occur in Puerto Rico, affecting Sadog Tasi and first partial of Puerto Rico. The Sadog Tasi Treatment Plant will be affected but not water wells. Four power poles will be replaced.

The purpose of these power interruptions is to de-energize utility lines and allow CUC linemen the ability to replace deteriorated wooden poles with new wooden poles or with concrete poles at certain areas of the power grid. This is a continuation of CUC's ongoing hazard mitigation project that focuses on strengthening and hardening CUC's power distribution system through the replacement of 787 wooden poles with concrete poles. Of the 787 wooden poles to be replaced, 744 replacements have been made by CUC and its contractor.

There will be a scheduled water service interruption today, June 28, from 8am to 5pm affecting CUC's water customers in As Terlaje, Beach Road, Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai, Kannat Tabla, Chalan Kiya, Rasmu Lane (El Toro), Chalan Tun Antonio Apa, and west side areas of As Lito (Faha Place, Bayak Drive and Aplok Drive).

CUC's contractor, AIC Marianas, Inc., will be cutting and capping the existing 14-inch transmission line connection to the Kannat Tabla tank and replacing the existing 8-inch valve along the intersection of Kannat Tabla and Chalan Monsignor Guerrero Road fronting Mechille Corp. As a result of the new installation, a more reliable water system will be provided to the community. Regular water service hours will resume thereafter.

This is an ongoing project funded by the U.S. Protection Agency to replace the water tank at the Northern Marianas College.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.corn/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(Saipan Tribune)***

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July proclamation recognizes bereaved parents

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

In a unique proclamation signing, bereaved parents gathered at the Office of the Governor's conference room on Capital Hill yesterday to recognize the grief a parent endures with the untimely passing of their children.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres proclaimed July as Bereaved Parents Awareness Month in the CNMI, describing the proclamation ceremony as the first of its kind.

Having lost a sibling, Torres said he could relate to those who unfortunately outlive their own children, as he himself has seen it with his own parents when he lost a sibling.

"Each one of us has different ways of letting go and appreciating what matters… We need to stay together, most especially at the time of need," Torres said. "…I've seen it too with my family. Losing someone is never easy."

The proclamation was a product of the efforts of We Remember Them CNMI, led by Tania Mendiola, Jill Derickson, and Donna Krum.

Derickson, who has lost her husband, her father, and her sister, said the proclamation is intended for parents who have lost their child.

"…It's a very unique kind of loss," said Derickson. "You don't expect your child to [pass] before you do."

The organization would be hosting a walk on July 26, called the "Walk to Remember," in remembrance of children whose lives were taken too soon. Derickson noted that organization of the event is still underway, and that more information would be posted on their Facebook page at We Remember Them CNMI.

Karidat moves to new location

Karidat Social Services, currently located at the VS Sablan Building in Chalan Piao, will move to the former Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center, now the Sister Remedios Community Center, located on Chalan Kanoa Drive in Chalan Kanoa, and therefore will be closed through July 8, 2018. ***(PR)***

Torres expects more certified questions on AG relationship

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres expects several more certified questions on his relationship with the Office of the Attorney General in the future after the CNMI Supreme Court came out with a ruling that clarified two certified questions on the role of the office.

In an unplanned news briefing yesterday, Torres stated that he expects more certified questions about his dynamic with Attorney General Edward Manibusan, not because of bad blood but because of their "new relationship."

"[This] is something we would continue to move forward [from]. Nothing changed and we are [in the mindset of] 'where do we go from here,'" said Torres in a statement. "I am sure that, along the way, we would be having more certified questions, not because of bad relationships but to make sure that that relationship continues to move forward with a clear understanding as to where his office stands."

Torres and the OAG filed a petition for a writ of certiorari in May 2017 to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in the *Davis v CEC* case.

The case involved the restriction on the Commonwealth Constitution limiting the right to vote on constitutional amendments involving land alienation to persons of Northern Marianas descent.

Manibusan declined to petition the U.S. Supreme Court for a writ of certiorari in the Davis case, to which Torres responded by hiring a private counsel to file the petition, only to be denied on October 2017.

After that, Torres and Manibusan filed a joint petition for a certified question to ask the Supreme Court whether Manibusan has the authority to decline to appeal adverse judgments and whether outside counsel may prosecute an appeal for the governor or a Commonwealth government agency without a grant of authority from the AG.

The Supreme Court, in a ruling last Tuesday, said that the AG may decline to appeal an adverse judgment despite the wishes of a governor or a client government agency and that the governor or a client agency may not hire outside counsel to prosecute the appeal without a grant of authority from the AG.

Manibusan is the first CNMI-elected AG.

MILITARY

From Page 1

It would be able to distinguish warheads from decoys that are designed to trick missile defense systems.

The radar would help give the Alaska missiles "better eyes," said Sen. Brian Schatz, a Democrat from Hawaii and a supporter of the project.

So far, lawmakers have appropriated $61 million for planning but not funds for construction. Schatz, who serves on the defense subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee, said he doesn't have much doubt about the likelihood of follow-on funding.

The radar would be about 30 to 50 feet (9 to 15 meters) wide and 60 feet to 80 feet (18 to 24 meters) high, according to the Missile Defense Agency.

It will likely to have a flat-face surface like one in Shemya, Alaska, instead of a ball-like appearance of other military radar. Experts say the larger the face, the more precisely it will be able to distinguish between warheads and decoys.

The agency is studying two possible locations for the radar, both of which are on Oahu's North Shore. It's collecting public comment through July 16.

Schatz said lawmakers discussed the radar with the previous commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific, Adm. Harry Harris, who recently retired and has been nominated to be the U.S. ambassador to South Korea.

"We already have robust capabilities, but working with Admiral Harris, we wanted to double down and make sure we have the most powerful combination of missile interceptors and radar systems anywhere," Schatz said in a phone interview.

The radar would help identify long-range ballistic missile threats mid-way through flight.

David Santoro, a director and senior fellow for nuclear policy at the Pacific Forum think tank in Honolulu, said threats from North Korea were increasing as Pyongyang developed more sophisticated missiles and nuclear weapons.

"Over the past few weeks, we have seen a so-called peace initiative developing, but the reality is the threat is still there. It's not going away," Santoro said. The U.S. would be expected to build a radar system to counter the threats, he said.

U.S. concerns about the threat from North Korean missiles spiked last year as North Korea test-fired long-range missile over Japan and threatened to launch ballistic missiles toward the Guam, a major U.S. military hub in the Pacific. President Donald Trump warned the U.S. military was "locked and loaded, should North Korea act unwisely" and that the U.S. would unleash "fire and fury" on the North if it continued to threaten America.

But then Trump and North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Un, met in Singapore earlier this month and issued a declaration agreeing to "work toward complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula."

The statement did not define a process, say when it would begin or say how long it might take.

MAN

From Page 1

Teresa Kim-Tenorio imposed a $50,000 cash bail on Saimon and set the preliminary hearing for July 2 at 1:30pm.

Assistant public defender Jean Nogues was appointed as counsel for Saimon. Assistant attorney general Teri Tenorio appeared for the government.

Police said that the victim went to Department of Public Safety on Monday at 5:26pm to file a complaint against Saimon.

The victim told police that Saimon arrived at her workplace on Monday between 9am and 10am and forced her to leave with him, threatening that he would print her nude photos, post them at her work and send them to her family and friends if she does not go with him.

She said she was forced to enter Saimon's vehicle but that she did not know where he would take her.

She said Saimon brought her to his house and, when she refused to have sex with him, he brandished a machete at her. The victim told police she was scared, was crying silently, and was in pain.

Police were able to retrieve the machete later.

Medical reports from the sexual assault examination noted bruising on the victim's neck and forearm as well as injuries to her private parts. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

TORRES

From Page 1

here. We welcome every country. We are not specifically saying that…we want Chinese money [here]. It's a free market. You come in and we treat you just like everybody else," he said in an unplanned news briefing yesterday.

The USCESRC report noted that U.S. military interests may be affected by the influence of China in the Pacific region. Specifically, the report stated that China's presence may "erode U.S. influence" in the Compact countries of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau, which could have implications for "U.S. military access in the region."

The report cited a statement by Dean Cheng, a senior research fellow at the Heritage Foundation, who believes that if China were to establish a long-term political foothold in the region, it could "persuade [the Compact countries] not to extend access to the U.S. as well as arrange for Chinese access."

The report noted that Compact countries allow assured access to their islands in a contingency situation in exchange for U.S. defense commitments.

Nothing personal

Press secretary Kevin Bautista pointed out that the CNMI has been actively involved in discussions on establishing a "stronger relationship" with the U.S. Department of Defense in the last three years alone.

"We take the U.S. national security concerns very seriously," he said.

Bautista highlighted several meetings between Torres and the Pentagon, the Pacific Command in Hawaii, and the Joint Region Marianas in Guam, among several others.

"At the end of the day, the administration has worked diligently to develop a strong economy that is built upon even stronger foundations that can grow an economy that is stable and beneficial for the CNMI," he said.

Bautista noted that the CNMI has always been plagued with geographical and political barriers, which in turn lowers the economic viability of the NMI.

"Who is going to come to the CNMI 8,000 miles away [from the U.S. mainland], when there is a market for them [there] and no incentive for them to invest here in the Marianas, even though the governor and his administration has made every possible effort to attract American investments first," he said.

"We are getting literally crumbs from the global market table," said Bautista, adding that even with all the industries that were allowed to develop, the CNMI still does not have enough resources to be self-sufficient in a "typical economic setting."

"During the heights of the CNMI economy, policies were based on supporting economic growth which saw successes but still lacked a lot of the foundational structure that is needed for a more developed economy," he added.

According to Bautista, the administration has been focusing on policies that create high-paying jobs through investments and infrastructure planning in order to boost the quality of living in the CNMI.

ROTA

From Page 1

said, adding that they began the so-called pre-academy last week.

He disclosed that the two cadets for the Division of Fish and Wildlife are already there and that they are just waiting for the three cadets for Customs.

Manglona said this is the first time in CNMI history that DPS Rota will have its own academy and with such a large number of cadets.

After graduation, the cadets' on-the-job training will be at Rota DPS, not Saipan DPS.

As for the academy's instructors, he said they have certified instructors from NMC and that the Office of the Attorney General will also bring their prosecutor to Rota.

He said the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services on Saipan will also send instructors and first responders for hazardous materials training.

Manglona said they are thankful to Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres for helping them to provide more employees, technically referred to as FTEs, or full-time employees.

When asked why they have such a large number of police cadets for a small island, Manglona said: "It's better to be prepared for anything."

Including Manglona, Rota DPS currently has 31 police officers.

BOE motion to dismiss ex-PSS chief's claims under advisement

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo placed under advisement yesterday the Board of Education and its members' motion to dismiss the two claims in the lawsuit filed against them by former Public School System commissioner Cynthia I. Deleon Guerrero.

Special assistant attorney general Tiberius D. Mocanu argued the motion as counsel for the BOE and its members: MaryLou S. Ada, Janice A. Tenorio, Herman T. Guerrero, Florine M. Hofschneider, and Herman M. Atalig.

Brien Sers Nicholas argued against the dismissal.

In Deleon Guerrero's wrongful termination claim, Mocanu said the court must dismiss this claim as the court lacks jurisdiction because of Deleon Guerrero's failure to comply with the Government Liability Act.

Mocanu stated that Deleon Guerrero has not alleged that she has presented her claim to the attorney general and gave the CNMI 90 days to resolve her claim.

As for her claim of breach of contract, Mocanu said Deleon Guerrero fails to allege any particular contractual provision that the BOE and its members breached.

Mocanu said the only possible contractual provision that could have been relied on does not mandate a hearing prior to dismissal.

In Deleon Guerrero's opposition, Nicholas asked the court to deny the motion and proceed to trial.

In Deleon Guerrero's pleadings, Nicholas said Deleon Guerrero was entitled to be heard and to defend herself as a matter of due process—something that the BOE and its members did not give her.

Nicholas said the defendants argue for the dismissal of the breach of contract claim by focusing their attention only on Deleon Guerrero's claim for lack of notice and an opportunity, conveniently forgetting Deleon Guerrero's other allegations that her termination was "for cause" based on MaryLou Ada's statement as the chairperson of BOE that Deleon Guerrero was terminated because she was not getting along with BOE members.

Nicholas said while Deleon Guerrero's contract allowed her termination "without cause," the actions of the defendants alleged by plaintiff were otherwise, that is terminating her "for cause" because she was not getting along with them.

"This is the breach in this case," the lawyer said.

Nicholas said the defendants, in an attempt to support their argument, put forth a hypothetical that is not fitting to the undisputed facts of this case in that plaintiff was terminated because she would not go along with defendants.

Nicholas said this is where Deleon Guerrero was entitled to be heard and to defend herself against accusations.

Nicholas noted that Deleon Guerrero alleges that her termination was done in retaliation for her questioning BOE's micromanagement of PSS and her refusal of a request to transfer $175,000 to the board's account.

Deleon Guerrero sued BOE and its members for allegedly terminating her last October as PSS commissioner in violation of due process. She accused the defendants of conspiring to violate her due process rights, wrongfully terminating her, and breaching her employment contact. She is demanding $350,000 in damages.

Deleon Guerrero originally filed her lawsuit before the Superior Court last January. Last March 23, the defendants filed a notice of removal of the lawsuit to the District Court.

Once in the District Court, Deleon Guerrero moved to have the case returned to the Superior Court.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona remanded to the Superior Court two claims—wrongful termination and breach of contract.

Last May 30, Manglona dismissed with finality Deleon Guerrero's two remaining claims—violation of her due process rights and conspiracy to violate her due process rights.

During the pendency of the case in the District Court, defendants filed a motion before the Superior Court to dismiss all counts in plaintiff's complaint.

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CUC works to cut non-revenue water loss

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has been focusing on reducing its non-revenue water loss in the CNMI as it also teamed up with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to make Saipan's water infrastructure typhoon resilient.

In its 2017 Saipan Water Quality Report that was sent yesterday to all its water customers, CUC said its management team is focused on fixing all the leaks that contribute to water loss on the three islands, along with a plan to achieve a 24-hour water distribution to all Saipan customers by the end of the year.

However, their main challenge, the report said, is fixing the main transmission line that fail with the increased water pressure in a fully pressurized system.

"CUC is adjusting and moving deliberately to fix years of problems that have hurt water system delivery efforts to all customers," the report said.

"As transmission and distribution mains are replaced, and water loss recedes, more effort will be made to plan for a feasibility study for alternative water supplies that includes desalination as one option," the report added.

CUC also has a continuing effort to get all infrastructure systems running in time before the current pending demand goes online in 2019 and 2020.

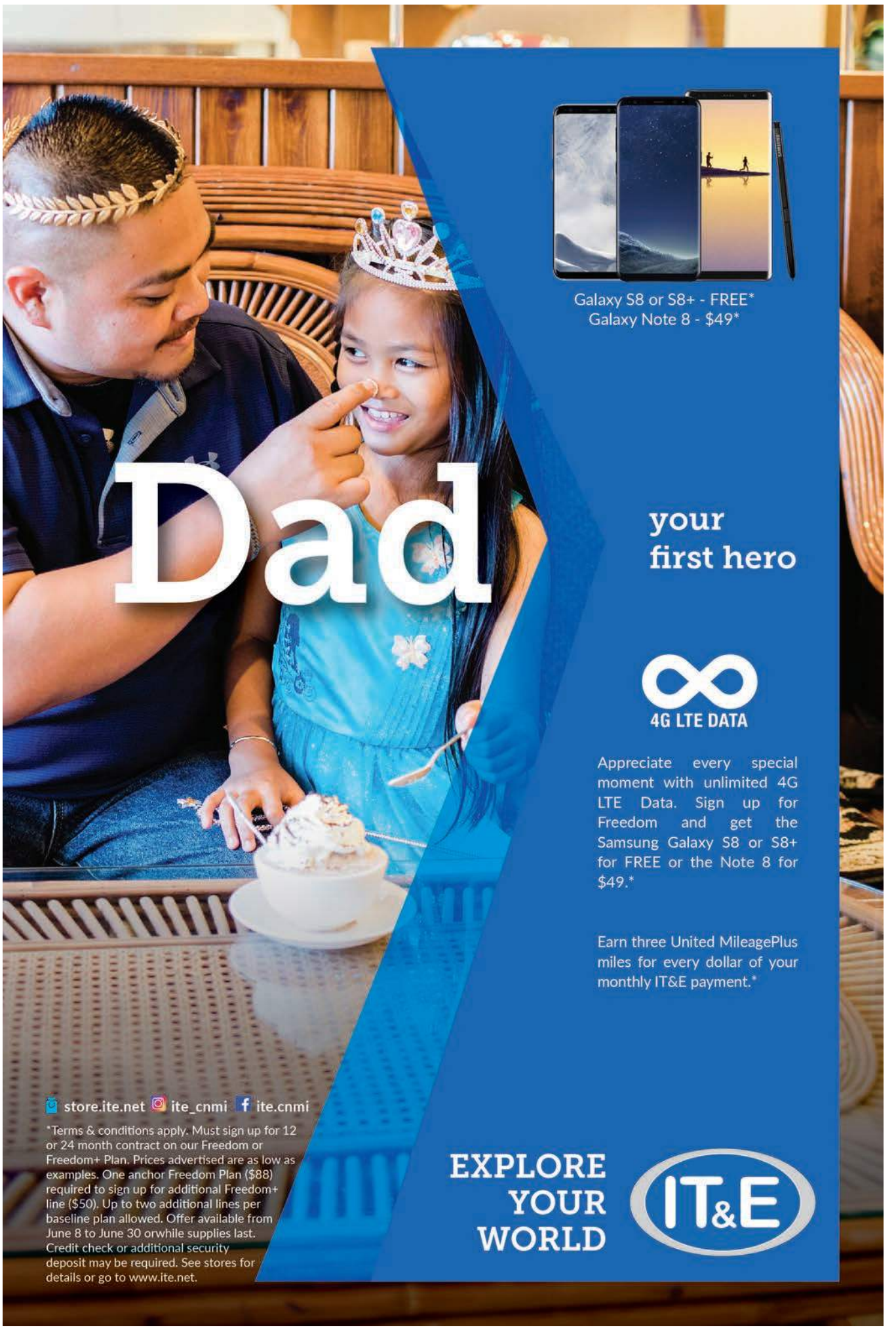
CUC's long-term strategy in meeting the increased demand include being cost-competitive and minimizing the impact on rates by considering the possibility of having developers pay for development—not existing ratepayers.

They are also working with FEMA in trying to get all water infrastructure systems on the island typhoon-resilient after services were disrupted when Typhoon Soudelor pummeled Saipan almost three years ago.

That involves hardening the water infrastructure system "in order to improve the capacity and capability of the water system to return to operation immediately following an environmental catastrophe," states the CUC report.

Capital reinvestments have been CUC's top priority the past six years that includes replacing four water storage tanks—between 250,000 and one million gallons—eight miles of mains replaced, upgrades to many water facilities, one mile of sewer mains replacement, rehabilitation of eight sewer pumping stations, and a comprehensive replacement of water meters for all residential, commercial, and government accounts.

The CUC management is also encouraging its customers to read and learn more about their water utility and understand how water quality guidelines operates. They suggest that consumers report any illegal connections and water leaks while minimizing water consumption to only what you need. Only CUC and fire personnel are authorized to use fire hydrants.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LibDay festivities start June 29

Finishing touches are underway for the opening of the Liberation Day grounds at Garapan Fishing Base this Friday, June 29.

The festivities will kick off at 6pm with brief remarks by Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang, Liberation Day Committee president Louis Rodgers, and 2018 Liberation Day Committee chair Joe E. Ayuyu Jr.; and the introduction of this year's Royal Court.

The festivities, presented by the mayor's office and the 2018 Liberation Day Committee, will be held through July 7, 2018, from 6pm to 10pm (closing at 11pm on Fridays and Saturdays). The celebration will include food and drink sales, live entertainment, games, bingo, arts and craft sales, and more. This year's Liberation Day theme is "Sea to Shining Sea," celebrating the International Year of the Coral Reef and the islands' oceanic heritage and cultures.

Over 50 marching units and floats have signed up for the Liberation Day parade on July 4 at 3pm. The parade will start at National Office Supply and proceed along Beach Road to the festival grounds. Cash prizes will be awarded to the best floats: $4,000 for first place, $3,000 for second place, $2,000 forthird place, and $1,000 for fourth place.

Title sponsors this year are the Marianas Visitors Authority, Imperial Pacific International LLC., Skywalker Group, Ana. Corp., McDonald's of Saipan, Tournament of Champions, IT&E/IP&E, Triple J Ent., *Marianas Variety*, TanHoldings Corp., Hyatt Regency Saipan, The Shack, Matson, Coca-Cola/Foremost, and Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation.

Additional sponsors include Bridge Capital, LLC., J.C. Tenorio Ent., Korean Community of Saipan, VaprSpot, P.D.I., Bank of Guam, Docomo Pacific, Roil Soil, Chong's Corp., Saipan Travel, Saipan Ice and Water Co., Saipan Shipping Co., I Love Saipan, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Bank of Hawaii, Coral Ocean Golf Resort, Mariana Resort & Spa, KKMP, KCNM-KZ-MI, G4S, Spicy Thai, MyCapitures, Bank of Saipan, Atkins Kroll, Joeten Superstore, Bank of Saipan, Aqua Resort Club, Athlete's Foot, Joeten Supermarket, AA Enterprises; Bank Pacific, Kensington Hotel Saipan, Moylan's Insurance, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Saipan World Resort, Kanoa Resort, Borderline, American President Lines, Island Apparel, Atkins Kroll, AON Insurance, Calvo's Insurance, Delta Management Corp., First Hawaiian Bank, Hard Rock Café Saipan, Java Joe's, Saipan Stevedore, Saipan World Resort, Take Care Insurance, LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort, Kingfisher Golf Links, All-Star Sporting Goods, Joeten Motors, and the Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture.

Supporters include CNMI Office of the Governor, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Dept. of Fire & Emergency Services, Dept. of Public Safety, Div. of Sanitation, Alcoholic Beverage & Tobacco Control, Bureau of Environment Health, Hotel Asso. of the Northern Mariana Islands, Hawaiian Rock Products, Herman's Modern Bakery, IP&E, Aon Insurance, Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants, Dept. of Public Lands.

For more information, visit www.saipanmayor.net or www.facebook.com/CNMI-LiberationDay, or call the Office of the Mayor of Saipan at 670.234.6208. ***(PR)***

Babauta-Sablan camp aims to work with casino

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The camp of former governor Juan N. Babauta has expressed a willingness to work with the casino-hotel if ever their ticket wins this year's general elections—provided that Imperial Pacific Resort officials follow CNMI and federal laws.

Babauta is again seeking the gubernatorial post with former Education commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan as his running mate for lieutenant governor. They are going up against the GOP ticket of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan).

Although he says he is against any form of gambling, Babauta said he is willing to live with it and make sure the investor and the entire CNMI benefit from it. "Twice the people said no in a referendum, but overnight the Legislature got together after a short trip to Macau and came back with a written legislation and overnight passed it that authorized a casino industry on Saipan."

"Now that we have bitten the forbidden fruit, we have an agreement and have to live with that. Dr. Sablan and the rest of the team, if you put us in, we're going to work with the casino and see to it that it will work [and] we're not going to let this skeleton facility be abandoned. We're going to work with the casino industry and we'll see to it that it is successful."

He added that this is his and Sablan's commitment if they are elected to office. "We're going to work with them on a very fundamental agreement that follow CNMI and federal laws and [if] they are going to stick to their commitment, we're going to be happy to work with them and see to it they succeed."

Sablan added: "They must follow the rules and laws of the land, there must be no exemption."

If the casino does succeed, Sablan said that that will open more opportunities for foreign investors. "There's that opportunity" and the entire CNMI would benefit.

"We have to make sure that, like everyone is saying, the 65 percent that are really struggling, that we address it as well."

She added that it is the people of the CNMI who would benefit from these investors. "We must be mindful what it is that they are bringing in to benefit our children. What it is that they are bringing in so that the women here would not be shunned down but also given an opportunity to participate. That's what we are looking for."

JON PEREZ

Former governor Juan N. Babauta, right, and ex-CNMI Public School System commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, third left, join Sen. Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), left, after former House speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider announced his senatorial candidacy last Monday at Babauta's house in Gualo Rai.

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Solar Energy/Electrical Installation Technician will install residential grid-tied and off grid Solar PV systems. In this position, the PV Installer will provide support to the crew lead of the installation team, communicate job status data to the operations management, and ensure the completion of installation of all solar arrays/systems. It is the responsibility of every Installer to ensure safe work practices for the installation team.

Responsibilities
- Ordering inventory for each installation job
- Pre-assemble job components in the warehouse
- Layout and assembly of solar modules / array and mounting hardware
- Mechanical/structural mounting of racking, modules and electrical equipment
- Electrical wiring of solar array/system (AC and DC)
- Document completion of completed installation
- Clean up job site
- Attend mandatory training sessions on new products, installation methodology and safety
- Additional duties required as needed

Qualifications
- 1 year of roof work, general construction, Electrical required
- Previous solar experience strongly preferred
- Must be able to lift 50lbs.
- Ability to work in extreme environments (example: heat, sun, etc.)
- Must be willing and able to climb ladders, stairs, work on rooftops and able to work on your feet for long periods of time
- High school diploma or GED required
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills required
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- Must be able to successfully pass a pre-employment criminal, driving and drug screen
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Seats available for IT, hospitality courses with LTA

The Latte Training Academy Inc. continues its efforts to aide in the CNMI's workforce development.

The organization has used available funding to provide courses in the areas of hotel and hospitality, allied health, business administration and information technology.

Since the beginning of the year, the organization has completed seven certification courses, including bookkeeping, fundamental of information technology, hotel & hospitality skills tasks and results training, or START, medical billing and coding, nursing assistant, phlebotomy technician and office manager.

The organization is currently holding its hotel & hospitality specialty and first QuickBooks certification courses.

July will see a Fundamentals of information technology, A+, bookkeeping and nursing assistant certification courses.

In August, START, specialty and additional allied health area certification courses will commence.

There are seats available for all the IT and hotel and hospitality courses.

"We are really proud of the strides that have been made with the support of our community. To date, we have trained 600 CNMI residents, with a certification rate of over 90 percent. We have received a tremendous amount of support from the private business sector who have readily sought out our students for employment or advancement opportunities," said LTA executive director Arielle Buyum.

The upcoming courses, including its fundamental of information of technology course and the hotel and hospitality START and specialty courses are all currently accepting registration via the LTA website. Other course offerings, including its nursing assistant, medical billing and coding, phlebotomy technician and bookkeeping courses, are already filled.

"The demand for all of our courses is steady. However, there are some courses where the demand is so high, that we encourage interested parties to place their name on the wait list. We certainly do not want to turn away any potential student; however, we accommodate classes based on a first-registered, first-serve basis. We understand this can be frustrating to some students who don't want to wait to get started on a new career. We encourage interested participants to learn more about our programs and register online at www.lattetrainingacademy.com," said LTA president Juan-Carlos Benitez. ***(PR)***

Using one's hobby to keep out of trouble

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

It is usually said that boys never grow up. "They just get older and their toys get expensive." That may be true but veterinarian Dr. Edgar G. Tudor prefers to think it is his hobby of restoring vintage cars that keeps him out of trouble.

"It keeps me out of bars," he said, laughing. "When you have old cars, you have to spend a lot of time working on them and so I always tell people it keeps me out of trouble."

As a young boy growing up in Maryland, Tudor was always surrounded by cars—particularly British cars. "I grew up with British cars because that is what we drove back when I was younger."

He said everyone drove British cars in the '50s and '60s and that requires everyone to be able to work on cars a bit, unlike cars these days that don't require checking the oil often or don't require much work until one brings it to a mechanic.

"Back then, particularly if you have a British car, you knew you were going to have to work on them…so you are constantly doing something with them and I just got into the habit of fixing cars," he added.

Tudor began working on vintage cars when he was in the U.S. mainland and picked up the hobby again while on Saipan 10 years ago.

"I was driving my…$27,000 car, driving 35 miles an hour with the air-conditioning running. I looked at it and then thought that it's kind of stupid to have an expensive car just to have air-conditioning when you can only go 35 miles an hour so I thought I need to get me an old car," he said. "So I got myself a 1964 Austin Healey Sprite…Driving an old car is less expensive than having a new car."

Tudor has three vintage cars that he rebuilt and painted himself: a 1965 Mini station wagon, a 1950 Mini Cooper, and the 1965 Austin Healy Sprite. "I do the rebuilding in my own garage."

"I am currently working on a 1950 MG-TD, 1962 Triumph TR3, and a 1974 Volkswagen Beetle convertible…I am not planning on getting other cars once I finish these," he added.

While Tudor practices veterinary, his hobby helps him learn from his toys.

"Most of the really good orthopedists in human medicine all have hobbies that have something to do with their hands, mostly woodworking. They said it helps you with your hand-eye coordination, helps you better in surgery, and that was my excuse. It helps me become a better diagnostician. Fixing cars teaches you not to jump in conclusions, to look for the better things, and that just helps me become a better doctor," he said.

Restoring a car is kind of the same as helping a dog get better. "You feel good and I think that's what keeps you alive. If you have a job where all you do is sit around and groan, you may not live long or at least happily. But if you have a profession wherein you are always fixing something and get a lot of satisfaction, I think it helps make your life better," he added.

Not everything is perfect because, once in a while, you get something that you cannot fix. "This hobby helps you accept not being able to fix things and what you do is you have to buy a new part but it just really helps you deal with life," he added. "I don't plan stopping at any point. It drives my wife crazy, but, like what I said, it keeps me out of trouble because at least she knows I'm home."

"I'm just really a car guy," said vintage car enthusiast Dr. Edgar Tudor, seen here with his latest restoration, a 1950 Mini Cooper.
BEA CABRERA

Marriage license fee increase boosts number of marriages

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Counter-intuitively, an increase in marriage license fees has resulted in more couples applying for marriage licenses.

Although many would think that the fee increase would result in fewer marriages in the CNMI, the Saipan Mayor's Office says that that is not the case and that it has even seen the numbers double.

The increase is embodied in House Bill 20-128 that was passed into law in mid-April.

Accordingly, nonresidents will now be charged $250 to obtain a marriage license and residents will be charged $130.

All revenue raised from marriage license fees will go to the Saipan Mayor's Office account.

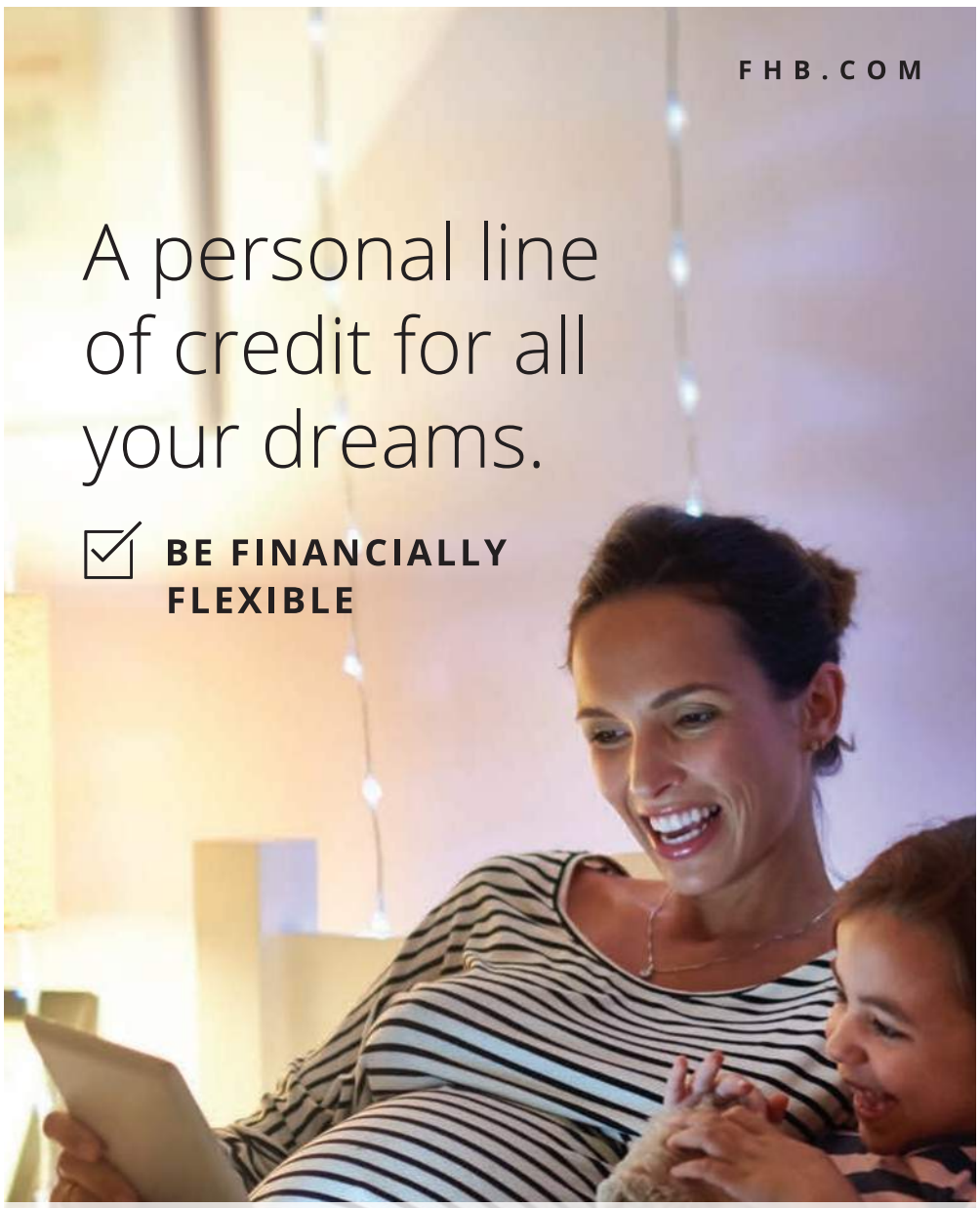
Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang says the change has been nothing but positive for his office.

Apatang said his office has seen an increase in the number of marriages they perform in a day and the community has been receptive to the increases.

"As a matter of fact, we increased the number of marriages every day. Instead of three and four every day, we increased it from five to six; that's more revenue for us," he said.

Apatang said the change has been a long time coming. "I think it is about time that we raised the fees for marriages. We perform a lot of marriages here in the mayor's office and it was only $50 for many years. I'm glad the Legislature finally realized that we need to increase our fees," he said.

The Saipan Mayor's Office will use the added revenue to continue its beautification projects in the CNMI and other projects run by the Saipan Mayor's Office.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DOC officials: Inmate who sued was caught with contraband

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Corrections Commissioner Vincent S. Attao and other Department of Corrections officers have denied an inmate's allegations in his lawsuit that he was subjected to "solitary confinement" at DOC.

Attao and other officials, through the Office of the Attorney General, disclosed that DOC lacks the facility to actually put an inmate in "solitary confinement" as it is commonly understood.

In fact, Jerry Ray was assigned to and resided in an ordinary cell in an ordinary "pod" where ordinary prisoners are kept, according to OAG Civil Division chief Christopher M. Timmons.

He pointed this out in Attao's and other DOC officials' answer to Ray's lawsuit against them.

Ray is suing Attao and other DOC officials in federal court for allegedly subjecting him to solitary confinement and isolation and failing to provide him adequate mental healthcare.

Besides Attao, the other defendants in Ray's lawsuit are Corrections director Gregory Castro, acting commissioner Georgia M. Cabrera, pre-trial operations captain Pius P. Yaroitemal, operation commander David Deleon Guerrero, and classification officer Cynthia B. Santos.

Ray, through Jeanne H. Rayphand of the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems Inc., is suing them for allegedly subjecting him to cruel and unusual punishment, and providing him inadequate mental health treatment.

In their response to the lawsuit, Timmons disclosed that Ray was sanctioned on Feb. 5, 2018 and Feb. 12, 2017, but that he did not administratively challenge these sanctions.

Ray has been a DOC inmate since 2012.

Timmons said Ray filed an administrative grievance to be removed from administrative segregation, but this was denied and not appealed pursuant to DOC's policies and procedures.

He said Ray failed a request to be removed from administrative segregation on Jan. 2, 2017, and filed the administrative grievance on Jan. 6, 2017, to be removed from administrative segregation.

Timmons said this grievance was denied as he had not completed the "step down" process.

Timmons said Ray did cut himself and that he was treated at the Commonwealth Health Center and released and cleared medically for prison.

He said Ray was also provided medication for hallucinations and cleared medically for prison by another doctor.

Timmons disclosed that Ray was caught with contraband and given notice of his possible sanctions, but he did not administratively appeal this sanction.

Timmons argued that all or some of Ray's claims for relief are barred by the Prison Litigation Reform Act, including the requirement of exhaustion of administrative remedies and grievance procedures. He asked the court to dismiss the suit with finality.

Ray, a habitual offender, has been an inmate of DOC since 2012 after he was convicted of burglary.

UOG course teaches forest conservation in Micronesia

Participants and instructors of the "Tropical Forest Ecology" course pose for a photo on the East Coast of Guam. The 17-day course was offered by the University of Guam in partnership with Iowa State University and the U.S. Forest Service from May 21 to June 7.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM/WESTERN PACIFIC TROPICAL RESEARCH CENTER

Forestry workers from around Micronesia have returned to their home islands with newfound knowledge and a fresh perspective on conservation following an intensive 17-day course offered by the University of Guam, in partnership with Iowa State University and the U.S. Forest Service.

Professors from both universities led 15 participants in a "Tropical Forest Ecology" course from May 21 to June 7.

"This is the third time we've taught the course, and it was the first time we had people working in forestry from several islands in Micronesia come together for a learning extravaganza," said Ross Miller, an entomologist and research scientist with the Western Pacific Tropical Research Center at UOG. "Our hope is that it will inform their conservation work and help protect the terrestrial ecosystems on their home islands."

Miller headed the course along with Haldre Rogers, an assistant professor in the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Biology at Iowa State University. The bird-less forests of Guam inspired Rogers's research and Ph.D. thesis focusing on the wide-ranging effects of bird loss on the forests where they disappeared.

The intensive course took students on a comparative journey through the forests of Saipan and Guam. Participants worked in groups to develop a hypothesis and then headed into the field to collect data.

Evan Fricke, a post-doctoral researcher from Rogers's lab, worked with the group on Saipan, and Ann Marie Gawel, a doctoral candidate in Rogers's lab, assisted on Guam.

The comparison of forests in Guam and Saipan proved impactful for the students.

"To see the fragmentation and loss of forests on Guam is very alarming," said Wendolin Roseo Marquez, a participant from Pohnpei who works as a senior grants officer with the Micronesian Conservation Trust.

Levani Shiro, a student at Northern Marianas College, said she was also greatly surprised by the enormous impact invasive species have had on the ecosystems of Guam. "It was strange being in the field in Guam and not seeing or hearing any birds. It also seemed like there were many more mosquitoes than in the forests of Saipan," Shiro said.

The students were eager to return to their home islands to apply what they had learned.

Valentino Orhaitil, a course participant from the Department of Forestry in Yap, said he felt the class was very important for natural resource managers and that it increased his knowledge base of relevant information that he plans to apply in the forests of Yap.

"It was very intense," he said. "We covered so much material in such a short time, but the instructors were amazing."

Marquez said he hopes to bring the course to Pohnpei in the near future to help build the capacity of terrestrial resource leaders and managers.

"The content was phenomenal. The course was fantastic, and the instructors were very resourceful and really knew their stuff," he said. "Marine science gets a lot of attention, but farming and forestry are not as lucrative or considered as cool for some people."

Rogers looks forward to the growth in exploration and research that this course may have inspired.

"What excites me about this course is that it allows students to participate in novel research projects that then generate more questions for future exploration," Rogers said. ***(UOG)***

HK Express sets rule per TSA mandate

HONG KONG—Following recent U.S. Transportation Security Administration mandates, Hong Kong-based airline HK Express will implement new screening measures on powder-like substances.

Effective Saturday, June 30, 2018, substances exceeding 12 ounces or 350ml may only be carried in checked baggage.

If found in carry-on bags, such substances could be subject to additional screenings or potentially discarded.

The updated policy affects only outbound HK Express flights to the U.S. territory of Saipan. All other HK Express routes remain unaffected.

Examples of substances that may be subject to scrutiny or restricted from carry-on include cosmetic powders, dry spices and protein powders. Substances such as baby formula, cremated human remains, medically prescribed items and duty-free powders inside a properly sealed Secure Tamper Evident Bag are exempted, but may be subject to additional security screening.

For security purposes, travelers may be asked to separate dense powders from other items. To avoid inconvenience, passengers are advised to carry any powders exceeding 350ml in their checked baggage.

HK Express will continue to adhere and abide by all introduced TSA measures. If unsure about items in their carry-on baggage, guests are recommended to contact HK Express' Call Centre at +852 3902 0288, or visit the airline's official website www.hkexpress.com for further details. ***(PR)***

Marine band to perform at LibDay Festival

The renowned Marine Corps Forces Pacific Band from Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii is coming to Saipan to join the rest of the CNMI in celebrating the 2018 Liberation Day.

The band is composed of experienced 57 musicians who come from different parts of he United States. The band members are combat trained Marine musicians and serve with Marine Corps Forces Pacific to provide security and support throughout the Indo-Pacific Command Area of Responsibility. They travel throughout the Pacific and conducts 400 performances every year. Their music serves to enhance the lives of military and civilian community through their talent and music. Their attendance at this year's Liberation Day celebration shows their dedication and preparedness to be called upon when needed.

Performance dates on Saipan are as follows:

■ July 3, 2018, 6pm at the American Memorial Park amphitheater featuring their Jazz Combo and Brass Band;

■ July 4, 2018, 3pm at the 2018 Liberation Day Parade featuring the entire band;

■ July 5, 2018, at the American Memorial Park, Visitor Center starting at 2pm, featuring its Jazz Combo and Brass Band.

The Liberation Day Festival itself will be held at the Garapan Fishing Base from June 29 to July 4, 2018. ***(Bea Cabrera)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Merlita Montano, who is celebrating her special day today, June 28, 2018.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Legislature wants to settle BOE issue

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) said the Legislature wants to settle once and for all the issue regarding the certified question that the CNMI State Public School System had sent to them and avoid going into a legal tussle.

Demapan, who is running for re-election under the CNMI Republican Party ticket, said the Legislature wants to finally settle the defiition of what constitutes general revenue and the 25 percent of the general budget that PSS is entitled to under the CNMI Constitution.

"I did discuss the issue with BOE member [Herman] Guerrero. And at that time, I told him that I would have to look at the issue," said Demapan, who added that they would also review and discuss he subject with the House legal counsel.

"This is also something that I would have to engage in conversation with members of the House. I'm seriously doing it not far from today, but we have to seek legal guidance first. The sooner the better. If I decide tomorrow, why wait for July?"

Demapan said it is PSS' prerogative to file a lawsuit or stick to a certified question in clarifying the issue. "They can do that if they choose to do it. A certified question is different from filing a lawsuit."

"It is their prerogative to take the issue to court. They can do that without the certified question," he added.

He said that lawmakers are serious in clarifying the issue. "That is something that we are seriously considering, not because we want to challenge PSS but to simply clarify the issue. I would rather not impose deadlines. This is an issue that requires a lot of legal review."

Demapan said the Legislature's position remains the same, that the 25 percent is an annual allocation from the general budget as stated in the CNMI Constitution, while supplemental appropriations are different.

"Our position is that we continue to stand by it, the 25 percent is the annual appropriation. The supplemental funding is something different the way you look at it. Even with that, PSS will continue receiving from that [general fund] source," he said.

"In a couple of weeks or days, we're going to make a definitive decision whether we pursue the certified questions. We [want to] clarify the issue, not that we are not in support of PSS, but because we are simply trying to avoid a lawsuit. We are simply trying to clarify the issue in regards to the constitutionality of the 25 percent."

The BOE, during their board meeting last week, decided to hold off a planned lawsuit against the CNMI government. The BOE is seeking clarification if the 25 percent stated in the Constitution also applies to other revenue sources and supplemental appropriations.

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TH PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTERST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP18-OVR-109

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 16, 2018 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES FOR THE OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP **MUST** BE MADE IN ANY MODE OF WRITTEN COMMUNICATION AND **MUST** BE SUBMITTED TO **MS. ARLENE YAMAGATA**, VIA E-MAIL TO: nmidir@ovrgov.net **NO LATER THAN 4:30 P.M., JULY 06, 2018.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

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/S/ ARLENE KAY A.YAMAGATA
DIRECTOR OF OVR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR OF P&S

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog through the Department of Public Works (DPW) would like to notify the general public that DPW, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, has amended its 4-Year Federal-Aid Highway Program Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP).

A copy of the plan can be obtained at DPW Technical Services Division Highway Branch for review and comments. Written comments must be submitted directly to DPW TSD Highway Branch, 2nd. Floor Joeten Commercial Bldg., Beach Road (above First Hawaiian Branch) or via email to: lms.dpwtsd@gmail no later than July 11, 2018, 2:00 p.m.

Any questions, please contact Mr. Kenn Aldan, Federal Program Coordinator at 234-9828 or 234-9838.

The following are listed in the TIPP:

I. CNMI DEPARTMENT OF Public Works Technical Services Division HIGHWAY BRANCH 4-YEAR Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan:
PROJECTS FUNDED BY: U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

DISTRICT	VILLAGE	ROUTE NO.	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF WORK	FY2017 FEDERAL	FY2018 FEDERAL	FY2019 FEDERAL	FY2020 FEDERAL
ALL	ALL	FY	Highway Planning, Technology Transfer & Training Activities Program	Admin	$882,000.00	$882,000.00	$882,000.00	$882,000.00
ALL	ALL	OJTSS	On The Job Training Support Service	Admin	$22,500.00	$22,500.00	$22,500.00	$22,500.00
ALL	ALL	NSTI	National Summer Transportation Institute	Admin	$20,000.00	$20,000.00	$20,000.00	$20,000.00
ALL	ALL		2019 CNMI Highway Master Plan	Planning		$200,000.00		
I	Songsong	10	Route 10 Hazard Elimination	Construction	$3,313,578.00			
I	Songsong	10	Route 10 Drainage upgrade from Pinatang Park to CUC Power Plant - Phase II	PE - Design				
				Construction			$500,000.00	
I	Sinapalu	11	Route 11 - Sabana Road Improvement, Phase II	Construction			$750,000.00	$250,000.00
I	Dugi	103	Route 103 - Roadway Improvements	PE - Design	$400,000.00			
II	San Jose	24	Route 24 Resurfacing West	PE - Design		$50,000.00		
				Construction			$1,000,000.00	
II	San Jose	25	Route 25 Resurfacing South	PE - Design			$100,000.00	
				Construction				$400,000.00
II	Tachungnya	27	Route 27- Road Repair (behind Dynasty)	PE - Design		$50,000.00		
II	Tachungnya	206	Route 206 - Road Improvement	PE - Design		$50,000.00		
				Construction				$400,000.00
III	Chalan Laulau - Garapan	30	Route 30 - Chalan Pale Arnold Hazard Elimination	PE				
				ROW				
				Construction				$1,000,000.00
				CM				
III	Kopa DeOro-SugarKing	30	4-Way Traffic Signal System	Construction			$750,000.00	
				CM-DPW			$50,000.00	
III	Quarter Master	315	3-Way Traffic Signal System	Construction			$650,000.00	
				CM-DPW			$50,000.00	
III	Oleai-Cristo Rai	33	Beach Road Hazard Elimination Project, Phase 3 (JP Center to Oleai)	PE Design		$50,000.00		
				Construction				$1,500,000.00
				CM				$290,000.00
III	Cristo Rai - Micro Beach	33	Beach Road Hazard Elimination Project, Phase 4 (Bank of Guam to Horiguchi Bldg.)	PE Design		$50,000.00		
				Construction			$3,000,000.00	
				CM			$450,000.00	
III	Kagman	34	Route 34 - Kagman Road	Construction		$800,000.00		
III	Dandan	35	Route 35 - Airport Road Improvement	PE Design		$50,000.00	$180,000.00	
				Row			$50,000.00	
III	Talafofo	36	Route 36 - Winward/Chalan Kalabera Dev	Construction	$10,171,086.00			
			Route 36 - Winward/Chalan Kalabera Dev (SAFETEA-LU) (funds from fiscal allocation)	Construction	$3,328,914.00	$4,250,000.00		
					$5,415,052.00			
III	Naftan	302	Route 302 Naftan Road	PE Design			$20,000.00	
III	Capitol Hill	310	Route 310 Tapochao Road and Drainage Improvements	PE Design		$300,000.00		
				Construction			$1,717,000.00	
				ROW				
				CM				
III	Savana	316	Route 316 - Savana Road	PE Design			$300,000.00	
III	Gualo Rai	317	Route 317 - Gualo Rai Road and Drainage Improvements	PE Design		$100,000.00		
				Construction			$500,000.00	
TOTAL OBLIGATION					$13,382,044.00	$6,874,500.00	$10,991,500.00	$4,764,500.00
Estimated Carry Over Prior Fiscal Year TOTAL:					$12,796,816.00	$3,443,072.00	$5,210,872.00	$747,672.00
FMIS Unobligated Funds (Closed-Out Projects/De-obligated for possible VI loans)						$4,614,000.00	$2,500,000.00	
OJTSS/NSTI					$42,500.00	$42,500.00	$42,500.00	$42,500.00
Annual Allocation:					$3,985,800.00	$3,985,800.00	$3,985,800.00	$3,985,800.00
TOTAL ALLOCATION (not including Other Funds)					$16,825,116.00	$12,085,372.00	$11,739,172.00	$4,775,972.00
TOTAL OBLIGATION (not including other funds)					$13,382,044.00	$6,874,500.00	$10,991,500.00	$4,764,500.00
FISCAL ALLOCATION TO HQ (Not including Other Funds)					$3,443,072.00	$5,210,872.00	$747,672.00	$11,472.00
TOTAL ALLOCATION - other (ER, Special Funds, etc.)					$10,171,086.00			

II. Commonweatlh Office of Transit Authority (COTA) Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)
PROJECTS FUNDED BY: U.S. Department of Transportation

DISTRICT	VILLAGE	ROUTE NO.	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF WORK	FY2017 FEDERAL	FY2018 FEDERAL	FY2019 FEDERAL
	Saipan	All	COTA Administrative & Maintenance Facility			$810,000.00	
			Purchae of One (1) Medium-Duty Low Floor ADA accessible Transit Bus for Fixed Route				$200,000.00
			Purchase of Two (2) ADA Accessible Vans for the Demand Response Service				$170,000.00
Total Obligation:						$810,000.00	$370,000.00
Estimated Carry Over Prior Fiscal Year TOTAL:					$1,206,840.00		
FY 2016 Allocation					$961,891.00		
FY 2017 Allocation					$825,745.00		
FY 2018 Allocation							
FY 2019 Allocation							
TOTAL ALLOCATION:					$2,994,476.00		
TOTAL OBLIGATION:					$2,168,731.00		
Carry Over FY 2018					$825,745.00		

/s/ James A. Ada
Secretary of Public Works

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

A driving distraction

On Sunday, dozens of joyous women climbed into the driver's seats of their luxury vehicles, fired up their engines and drove through the streets of the Saudi Arabian capital of Riyadh. It must have felt extraordinary after being barred for so long from engaging in an activity taken for granted by most women in the developed world.

These Saudi women were among the first to be issued driving licenses after the decades-long ban was lifted. The change is among a series of social and economic reforms pushed by young Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to transform the monarchy. The crown prince's Vision 2030 plan also seeks to expand the role of working women until they are one-third of the workforce.

Sunday's milestone was celebrated by Saudi women and men alike but freedom? Not exactly.

Certainly this is an important milestone for one of the most repressive regimes in the world, one in which women have been long considered to be little more than the property of men, denied fundamental rights and, among other things, subjected to a strict public dress code. But the right to drive should not be confused with real reform that allows women to be the architects of their own destiny. Sorry to rain on the parade, but it's hard to view this small step as much more than a shiny bauble to distract from the real obstacle to reform, the so-called guardianship law.

Under that law, all Saudi women, regardless of age, are under the authority of a male relative for their entire lives. A woman can't leave the country, attend college, open a bank account or get married without permission of the husband, father, uncle, brother or son upon whom she is dependent. In that context, the right to drive—or the right to vote and hold office that was granted in recent years—are at best only incremental advances. They're privileges that don't change the fact that a woman's guardian has the ultimate control of her life and body. That's not true freedom, just a longer leash.

Saudi officials say that women won't need to get permission from their guardians to be issued a driving license or to take a drive. That's an empty assurance in a society where men have so much control over women. In Saudi Arabia's legal system, for instance, a woman's testimony is considered only 50 percent as trustworthy as a man's.

Another sour note to the lifting of the driving ban is the crackdown on women's rights activists, including those whose protests helped bring about the change. Since May, about a dozen activists have been arrested, and about nine now remain in jail awaiting charges. Of most concern were the arrests of two women—Nouf Abdelaziz and Mayaa al Zahrani—arrested simply for expressing solidarity with those arrested earlier, according to Human Rights Watch.

Until Saudi Arabia ditches the oppressive guardianship system, women will not be truly free in Saudi Arabia.

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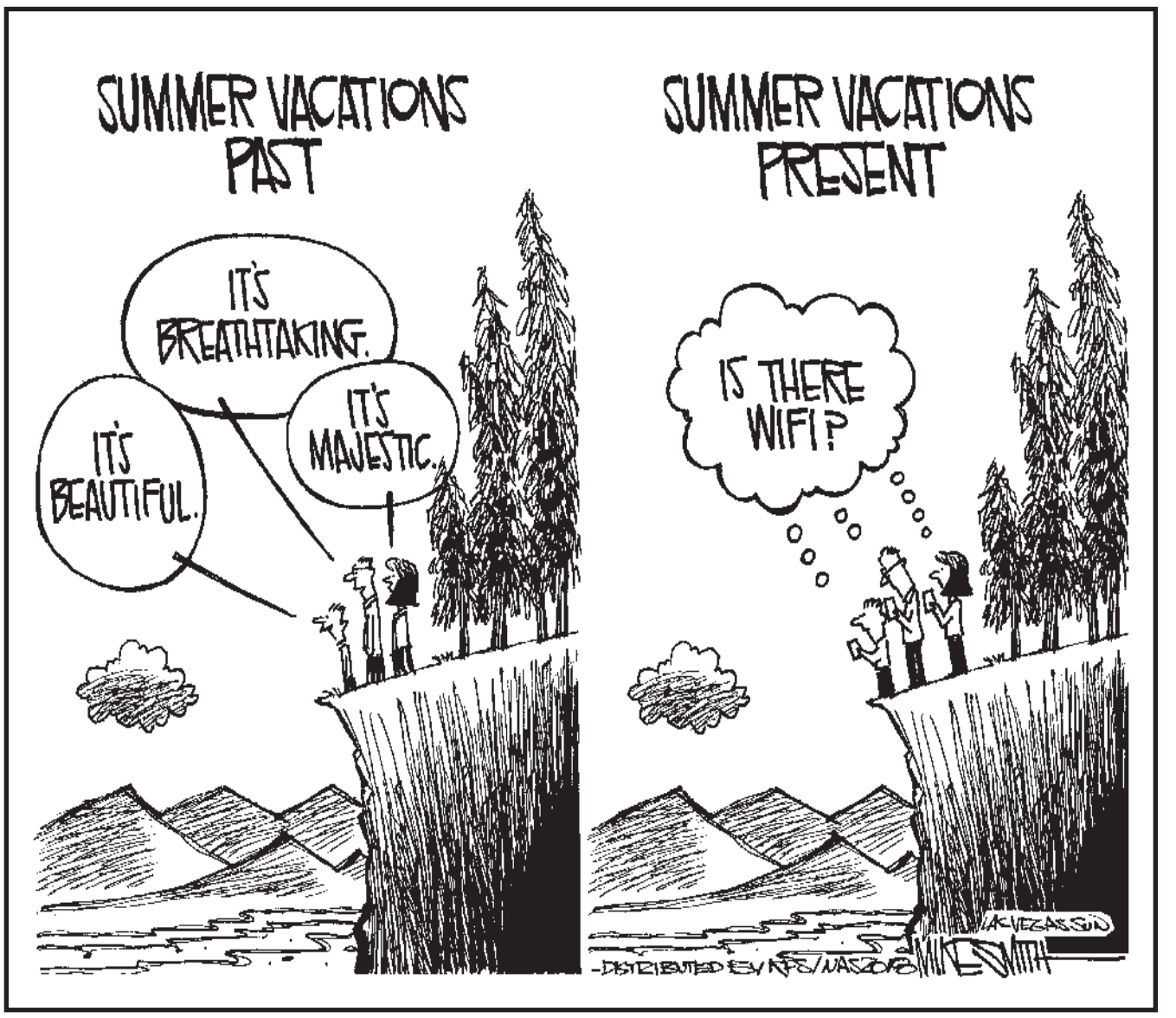


It's not the spoiler that's objectionable, it's the spoiler alert

By NOAH BERLATSKY
Los Angeles Times

Noah Berlatsky is the author most recently of The Consequences of Feminism: Women Film Directors.

"Rosebud" is the sled. Spider-Man dies. L3-37 gets scrapped and turned into part of the Millennium Falcon. Amy framed her husband for her own faked murder.

According to internet etiquette, all of these movie reveals should have been preceded by a big warning: SPOILER ALERT, and you should have averted your eyes. "Spoiler alert" is so ubiquitous, so accepted that the Oxford English Dictionary is adding it to its august lexicon as of this month.

Spoiler alerts have unquestionably conquered criticism; they are standard reviewer practice, not just standard English. But I wish it weren't so. The idea that you must not give away a plot twist in a film, TV show, game or book is bad for criticism, and worse for art.

The term "Spoiler alert" signals more than a reveal. It indicates cautious criticism that's worried about giving offense. Alerting readers to spoilers in reviews treats books and movies like delicate works of wonder whose mysteries must be protected rather than explored. The spoiler alert is congruent, not coincidentally, with corporate marketing. (Movie studios regularly warn critics not to reveal plot twists before a certain date, on the implicit threat that if they do they may be denied access to future screeners.)

But caution and delicacy should not be criticism's intent.

Take, for example, Roger Ebert's infamous review of the rape/revenge thriller "I Spit on Your Grave" (1980). Ebert starts with this, "A vile bag of garbage named 'I Spit on Your Grave' is playing in Chicago theaters this week." He then summarizes the plot of the movie, from beginning to end, sans spoiler alerts. His point is that "I Spit on Your Grave" is a moral abomination. You can't spoil a moral abomination. It's already a ruin.

As it happens, I think "I Spit on Your Grave" is a great movie. But I think Ebert's review is great, too, in its own way—full of passion and uncompromising anger. Ebert refuses to see the film from the perspective of its fans; he insists that he will not stand (or sit) with them. A spoiler alert in his review would be hypocritical, weak—just plain wrong.

If knowing the plot of "I Spit on Your Grave" makes you less likely to pay money to view it, Ebert thinks that's all to the good. "There is no reason to see this movie except to be entertained by the sight of sadism and suffering," he writes.

A total pan isn't the only reason to suspend your belief in spoiler alerts. In his book-length work of film criticism, "The Devil Finds Work," James Baldwin doesn't hesitate to give away the ending of one of America's most famous horror movies: "At the end of 'The Exorcist,'" he writes, "the demon-racked little girl murderess kisses the Holy Father, and she remembers nothing."

Baldwin doesn't care about preserving the pleasures of story resolution for future filmgoers. He's using William Friedkin's film to make a point about how white people in the United States deny, and conveniently forget, their own acts of evil and cruelty.

"The mindless and hysterical banality of the evil presented in 'The Exorcist' is the most terrifying thing about the film," he writes. "Americans should know more about evil than that, and if they pretend otherwise, they are lying."

Prefacing his exploration of the movie with "spoiler alert" would have been tantamount to saying "I have a subtle and painful point to make about American racism—but don't pay attention if you haven't seen 'The Exorcist'!"

When fans or studios chastise writers for spoilers, they are saying that criticism must always prioritize the views of those who see art in a certain, narrow, predictable and linear way.

If critics want to preserve a film's narrative roller-coaster ride, its surprises, so be it. But that shouldn't be the standard for criticism. Those with something different to say should be allowed to say it without the ritual use of "spoiler alert." The term is in the OED. But that doesn't mean critics have to use it.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

What happens when the social covenant is torn?

By LEONARD PITTS JR.
Miami Herald

Leonard Pitts Jr., winner of the 2004 Pulitzer Prize for commentary, is a columnist for the Miami Herald*, 3511 N.W. 91 Avenue, Doral, Fla. 33172. Readers may write to him via email at lpitts@miamiherald.com.*

We're not here to talk about civility.

Granted, that was the inescapable buzzword last week as the left wing rose in pointedly uncivil protest of the evil being perpetrated by the Republican Party and the moral monstrosity who is our president. GOP officials found themselves turned away from one restaurant, heckled in two others and confronted at the movies. The affable actor Seth Rogen told Stephen Colbert how he spurned House Speaker Paul Ryan's request for a photograph and dressed him down in the process.

And California Rep. Maxine Waters, a Democrat, poured gasoline on the fire. Crowds should gather, she said, wherever these people eat or pump gas, to let them know, "They're not welcome anymore, anywhere."

Suddenly, the lack of "civility" in public discourse was all anyone could talk about. Republicans leapt in gleefully, prominent among them former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, who decried the "increasing personal nastiness" toward members of this administration.

We'll pause here while you get a glass of water for that coughing fit.

Because, of course, the party of a man who bullied and name-called his way to the White House has no standing from here till the end of time to complain about anyone being impolite. And Gingrich? Being lectured on civility by that guy is like being lectured on virginity by Stormy Daniels.

But the buzzword is not simply wrong. It also misses the point.

Once upon a time, if the press secretary sat down at your restaurant for a meal, you fed her. Now, maybe you don't. Once upon a time, if someone asked you for a photo, you obliged. Now, maybe not.

Is that just a sign of eroding public decorum? Or is it not, rather, a sign of a great national unraveling, of a country pulling itself apart, of the social covenant—the unspoken agreements between us that allow a society to function—dissolving before our eyes?

Politics defines us now, ideology is identity now. Things you once took for granted, you no longer can. Things you didn't think political suddenly are. And routine no longer is.

Championship sports teams used to visit the White House. Now they don't. The president used to participate in the Kennedy Center Honors. Now he doesn't. Nor is the unraveling limited to this presidency.

Congressmen used to refrain from heckling presidents. But one did. A birth certificate used to be considered authoritative. Now it isn't. The opposition party used to govern in good faith. Now it doesn't.

But the roots of this moment go deeper than the Obama presidency, too. They date to at least the mid-1990s, when the GOP weaponized congressional investigations and—through their talk radio and cable news affiliates—lies.

Facts used to matter. Now they don't.

What we have been learning since the '90s is that the social covenant we once took for granted is critical. It is part of what made a great country good—indeed, part of what made it possible.

The GOP ripped that covenant in the name of political expedience. For proof, look no further than our chaos president. And if last week is any indication, the left is now prepared to shred what remains. It is possible to both support these protests, this necessary public shaming, yet also lament the fact that apparently, we are now the kind of nation where going out to dinner or pumping gas is a political act.

This is who we are now, and one wonders how much more we can take.

When the social covenant is torn, can the country be far behind?

Canada is not the enemy

By RICH LOWRY
King Features Synd., Inc.

Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

Justin Trudeau may be the annoying, youthful avatar of chic progressivism—but he's not our adversary.

After leaving the G-7 summit, President Donald Trump blasted the Canadian prime minister on Twitter as weak and dishonest, in the kind of invective once reserved for "Little Rocket Man."

The Trump presidency routinely produces unprecedented events, and here is another: Never before has a president of the United States spoken as scornfully in public about the head of state of a friendly, allied country. Particularly one who has appeared in Vogue.

Trudeau is not exactly a threatening figure, although his worshipful, celebrity-fueled press coverage qualifies as one of the more vexing political phenomena in all of North America (Rolling Stone celebrated the fact that he rides a unicycle; TMZ declared him on the "clear path to hottest leader in the world").

It's not clear what exactly led to the great U.S.-Canada tiff of 2018. White House aides fanned out over the weekend to try to lend meaning and justification to the flap.

They said Trudeau had stabbed the president in the back at the meeting. But Trudeau didn't say anything after Trump left the G-7 that he hadn't signaled before—namely that Canada finds Trump's steel and aluminum tariffs insulting and will retaliate.

The incident is a great misdirection. Canada's trade practices are hardly above reproach. Its tariff on milk of 270 percent, highlighted by Trump officials the past few days, is stupid and indefensible. It is guilty of subsidizing and protecting favored companies and sectors, the way most countries are.

It is nothing compared with the world's great mercantilist power, though. China routinely steals U.S. intellectual property, seeks to distort the entire system of international commerce to its advantage, and is pouring resources into a massive military buildup, with which it eventually hopes to expel the United States from East Asia.

Trudeau is the facile, democratically elected leader of a Western society; President Xi Jinping is the remorseless president for life of a hostile dictatorship. It's not a remotely close call who we should be aiming our fire at.

That we are dissipating our energies with steel and aluminum tariffs against allies and potentially alienating friends in what should be a united front against China speaks to a key mistake. Trump views the U.S. trade deficit—with any country, friend or foe—as the problem rather than China as the unique commercial and geostrategic competitor.

The flare-up with Trudeau is not an encouraging sign for prospects of renegotiating NAFTA, which also should be viewed in strategic terms. As Derek Scissors of the American Enterprise Institute points out, the trade agreement could extend beyond North America to Britain, which is seeking a new trade arrangement as it exits the EU, and the Philippines and Taiwan, which are pressured by China.

None of this will happen if Trump is determined to pursue a protectionist policy no matter what, or he lets his pique at friends get the best of him. The trade war—and the fight for our paramount interests—won't be won or lost against Justin Trudeau. Beijing, not Ottawa, is our enemy.

The Constitution wins again

By JAY AMBROSE
Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.

It won't quit. Critics of President Donald Trump screech profanities on TV, they throw press secretaries out of restaurants and one of them on Tuesday said the Supreme Court's upholding of a travel ban was the equivalent of one of the worst things it has ever done.

That would be allowing Japanese-American citizens to get locked up in concentration camps during World War II, and Justice Sonia Sotomayor wasn't through yet. In a dissent, she wanted the world to know that Trump had called for a complete Muslim ban during the campaign, and that this very act, an example of his recurring religious bias, was all the evidence needed that his ban was a disgrace to America, the Constitution, all we stand for.

What we had here was still another example of an overreaching Trump adversary aiming to do more damage to our precious system of governance than he could come up with at his very worst. The occasion was a 5-to-4 decision upholding his effort to keep terrorists from coming our way from countries where they are plentiful and where vetting is a lost cause the United States is trying to restore.

Chief Justice John Roberts got at the truth of things in his ruling that said it was not the job of the court to judge Trump's statements but to judge whether they influenced what he did. They didn't. There was no religious discrimination in the ban. It was religiously neutral. It was also well within the president's authority and responsibilities as decided, not by emotions riding high, but by statutes.

This decision, he wrote, was in no way akin to OKing the racist roundup of Japanese-Americans, something that was objectively illegal and scarcely a presidential prerogative. Sotomayor's contrary contention strikes me as saying she cares not a whit for rule of law, just as lower courts ruling against Trump's second and third bans were doing serious, politicizing harm to a judiciary thereby rendered less credible.

To not a few leftists out there, the decision was just another instance of conservatives outnumbering liberals on the court. It was more than that. It was the people believing in the most obvious meanings of the Constitution outnumbering those who want to reform it into vaporous ideals they can then twist anyway they like. Their take is that the 18th century document is outdated and that playing loose is the way to go. The real solution, if they are right about a need for change, is the legitimate amendment process that requires widespread consensus.

Sometimes it has seemed we do not even have a Constitution anymore, just an oligarchy of nine people taking the place of Congress. With one appointment, that of Justice Neil Gorsuch, Trump has done much to keep constitutionality in place, as was shown by still another decision Tuesday.

California had written a law saying that anti-abortion, crisis pregnancy centers must advertise where abortions can be had, which is kind of like saying Republican headquarters should advertise speeches by socialist Sen. Bernie Sanders. The First Amendment has something to say about this, as did another 5-to-4 court decision that, of course, still allows the state government to advertise all it wants.

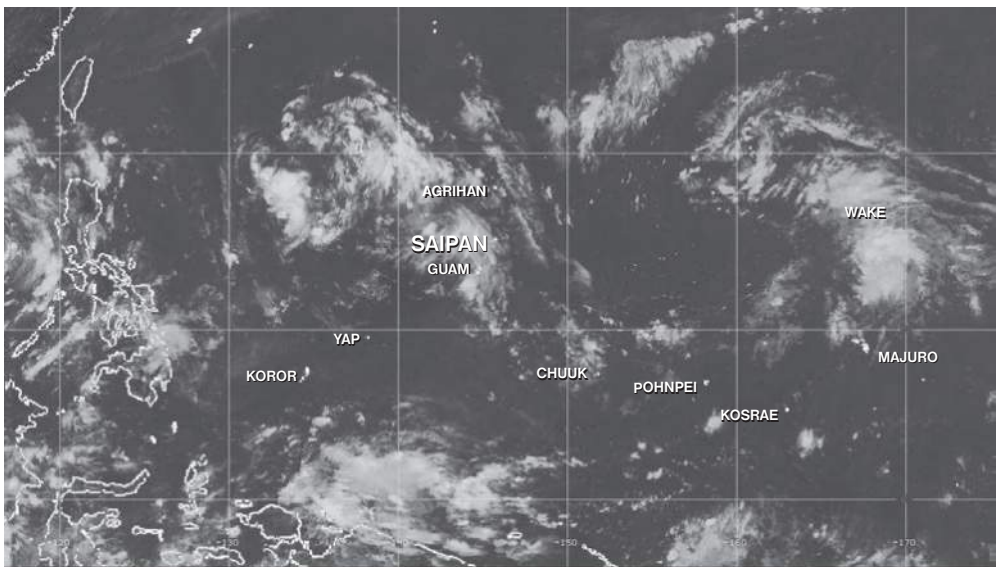
Liberty lives on, at least for a while.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:30 AM, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms will continue to affect the Marianas today, but should decrease by afternoon as a disturbance to the west of the area moves further away. Improving and drying conditions are expected tonight with generally dry weather and isolated showers expected for the remainder of the forecast period. Guidance is suggesting the next best shot of rain could be around Sunday, but will see if those trends continue before making any changes to the forecast. Seas will fall Thursday into Friday as the disturbance moves away and then will increase a bit into the weekend, but should remain in the 3 to 5 foot range throughout.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	87° / 80°
Palau	Thunderstorm	84° / 76°
Yap	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	88° / 77°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	88° / 77°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	84° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	55° / 41°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	102° / 75°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	90° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 75°
London	Sunny	84° / 57°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	79° / 62°
Manila	Thunderstorm	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	55° / 39°
Miami	Thunderstorm	86° / 78°
New York	Thunderstorm	82° / 71°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	86° / 75°
Paris	Sunny	84° / 64°
Busan	Thunderstorm	75° / 72°
Rome	Sunny	84° / 63°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	93° / 75°
San Francisco	Sunny	65° / 53°
Seoul	Thunderstorm	84° / 72°
Tokyo	Windy	86° / 75°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	88° / 71°

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- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
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TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:57 AM	LOW TIDE	1.19
6:42 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.84
2:12 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.28
9:13 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.82

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM
Monday	5:50 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	5:37 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	-	6:26 AM	7:39 PM
Saturday	-	7:15 AM	8:25 PM
Sunday	-	8:04 AM	9:09 PM
Monday	-	8:53 AM	9:51 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 6, 2018

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	8:45am	9:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA117	7:00am	7:45am	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

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SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Enemy turned ally: Poliovirus is used to fight brain tumors

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP CHIEF MEDICAL WRITER

One of the world's most dreaded viruses has been turned into a treatment to fight deadly brain tumors. Survival was better than expected for patients in a small study who were given genetically modified poliovirus, which helped their bodies attack the cancer, doctors report.

It was the first human test of this and it didn't help most patients or improve median survival. But many who did respond seemed to have long-lasting benefit: About 21 percent were alive at three years versus 4 percent in a comparison group of previous brain tumor patients.

Similar survival trends have been seen with some other therapies that enlist the immune system against different types of cancer. None are sold yet for brain tumors.

"This is really a first step," and doctors were excited to see any survival benefit in a study testing safety, said one researcher, Duke University's Dr. Annick Desjardins.

Preliminary results were to be discussed Tuesday at a conference in Norway and published online by the New England Journal of Medicine.

AP
This Aug. 8, 2013 photo provided by Duke University shows Dr. Matthias Gromeier at his laboratory at Duke in Durham, N.C.

MAKING AN ENEMY AN ALLY

Brain tumors called glioblastomas often recur after initial treatment. Sen. John McCain is being treated for one now. Immunotherapy drugs like Keytruda help fight some cancers that spread to the brain but have not worked well for ones that start there.

Polio ravaged generations until a vaccine came out in the 1950s. The virus invades the nervous system and can cause paralysis. Doctors at Duke wanted to take advantage of the strong immune system response it spurs to try to fight cancer. With the help of the National Cancer Institute, they genetically modified poliovirus so it would not harm nerves but still infect tumor cells.

The treatment is dripped directly into the brain through a thin tube. Inside the tumor, the immune system recognizes the virus as foreign and mounts an attack.

When doctors explained the idea to Michael Niewinski, it seemed a feat "like putting a man on the moon," he said. The 33-year-old from Boca Raton, Florida, was treated last August, and said a recent scan seemed to show some tumor shrinkage.

"I'm pain-free, symptom-free," he said.

STUDY RESULTS

The study tested the modified poliovirus on 61 patients whose tumors had recurred after initial treatments. Median survival was about a year, roughly the same as for a small group of similar patients given other brain tumor treatments at Duke. After two years, the poliovirus group started faring better.

Follow-up is continuing, but survival is estimated at 21 percent at two years versus 14 percent for the comparison group. At three years, survival was still 21 percent for the virus group versus 4 percent for the others.

Eight of the 35 patients who were treated more than two years ago were alive as of March, as were five out of 22 patients treated more than three years ago.

Stephanie Hopper, 27, of Greenville, South Carolina, was the first patient treated in the study in May 2012 and it allowed her to finish college and become a nurse. Scans as recent as early June show no signs that the tumor is growing, she said.

"I believe wholeheartedly that it was the cure for me," she said. Her only lasting symptom has been seizures, which medicines help control. "Most people wouldn't guess that I had brain cancer."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Lee Enterprises to manage Berkshire Hathaway newspapers

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Warren Buffett's company has hired Lee Enterprises to manage the mostly smaller newspapers it has acquired since 2011 in 30 different markets. Lee said Tuesday it expects to collect $50 million in fees from the five-year agreement that should help BH Media Group's newspapers reduce costs. "In addition to the primary benefit of deploying Lee's successful strategies at BH Media, this alliance provides a significant expansion of operating scale, adding 30 markets to our own 49," Lee President Kevin Mowbray said. Billionaire Omaha investor Warren Buffett, chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway, said that, "although the challenges in publishing are clear, I believe we can benefit by joining efforts. Lee Enterprises' growth in digital market share and revenue has outpaced the industry."

Businesses in Idaho town struggle to find workers

MCCALL, Idaho (AP)—An Idaho business is short staffed and having trouble finding people to hire, and the owner blames the problem on a lack of housing options for workers in the resort town. The Pancake House in McCall has been open for nearly 70 years. Owner Bonnie Bertram said this is the worst worker shortage she's seen in 40 years in the restaurant business, KTVB-TV reported. "Why (would they) mess with it when they can go to other places and get housing where it's a lot more affordable," she said. "I pay better than most in town and it's still not enough." Eighty percent of the town's workforce commutes from other areas, and 42 percent of those people travel 50 or more miles (at least 80 kilometers), one way, to go to work, McCall Mayor Jackie Aymon said.

Apple CEO intends to keep speaking out on social issues

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Apple CEO Tim Cook intends to continue lambasting immigration policies and other issues that trouble him to avoid falling into an "appalling silence." Cook outlined his views on when CEOs should protest government policies during a Monday evening appearance at a Fortune magazine conference . His remarks came a week after he condemned the Trump administration's since-reversed practice of separating children from parents accused of crossing the U.S. border illegally in an interview with The Irish Times. If he had dodged the politically charged subject, Cook said he would have been cast into "the appalling silence of the good people category and this is something that I never want to be a part of." Cooks listed education, privacy rights and the environment as other key issues for him and Apple.

Another wave of sales leaves GE a vastly changed company

NEW YORK (AP)—General Electric Co. is shrinking again, becoming a mere shadow of the globe-spanning conglomerate that it was before the Great Recession. GE said Tuesday that it will spin off its health-care business and sell its interest in Baker Hughes, which provides drilling services to oil and gas companies. The moves were announced as GE disappeared from the Dow Jones industrial average, replaced by a drugstore chain. GE was an original component in the Dow back in 1896 and had been a continuous member since 1907. But on Tuesday, Walgreens Boots Alliance Inc. took its spot in the stock index of 30 blue-chip companies. The committee that picks Dow components wanted to add a health-related stock to better reflect the overall economy, and one that was stronger.

Trump signals shift from imposing China investment limits

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump is suggesting his administration may back away from previously announced plans to impose limits on Chinese investment in American technology companies and high-tech exports to China, instead choosing to call upon Congress to act.

Trump, during a meeting with lawmakers, pushed back on recent reports that the U.S. was preparing the investment restrictions and suggested the administration could do it through the foreign investment reviews under the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States.

"We have to protect these companies. We can't let people steal their technology," Trump said when asked if the administration was preparing the investment restrictions. He said the U.S. technology could be protected through CFIUS. "We have a lot of things that we can do it through and we're working that out," he said.

The administration is expected to urge Congress to finalize legislation modernizing a law that allows the government to review foreign investments for national security concerns, according to a person familiar with the plans who spoke under condition of anonymity and was not authorized to speak publicly.

The House approved a bill on Tuesday that would make changes to the CFIUS law. The provisions are expected to be considered as part of a joint House-Senate conference committee reviewing a defense policy bill approved by the Senate last week.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin on Twitter Monday called media reports that the administration was readying investment restrictions on China "false." Mnuchin said any restrictions would not be aimed solely at China but at "all countries that are trying to steal our technology."

The comments ran counter to a May 29 White House statement: "The United States will implement specific investment restrictions and enhanced export controls for Chinese persons and entities related to the acquisition of industrially significant technology." It said the controls would be announced by June 30 and would "be implemented shortly thereafter."

STOCK PORTFOLIO

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DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
24,283.11	2,723.06	7,561.63
+30.31	+5.99	+29.62
+0.12%	+0.22%	+0.39%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.3557	Hong Kong Dollar	7.8472	Russian Ruble	63.0848
British Pound	0.7559	Indian Rupee	68.7147	Singapore Dollar	1.3636
Canadian Dollar	1.3313	Japanese Yen	109.8870	South Korean Won	1096.11
Chinese Yuan	6.4998	Malaysian Ringgit	3.9835	Swiss Franc	0.9905
Euro	0.8580	New Zealand Dollar	1.4671	Taiwan Dollar	29.9691
		Philippine Peso	52.4793	Thailand Baht	32.94

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Nation

States sue to pressure Trump to reunite immigrant families

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Seventeen states, including New York and California, sued the Trump administration Tuesday to force it to reunite the thousands of immigrant children and parents it separated at the U.S.-Mexico border, as the legal and political pressure on the White House to reconnect families more quickly escalated.

The states, all led by Democratic attorneys general, joined Washington, D.C., in filing the lawsuit in federal court in Seattle, arguing that they are being forced to shoulder increased child welfare, education and social services costs.

"The administration's practice of separating families is cruel, plain and simple," New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir Grewal said in a statement. "Every day, it seems like the administration is issuing new, contradictory policies and relying on new, contradictory justifications. But we can't forget: The lives of real people hang in the balance."

Separately, immigration-rights activists asked a federal judge in Los Angeles to order that parents be released and immediately reunited with their children.

In a speech before the conservative Criminal Justice Legal Foundation in Los Angeles, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions defended the administration for taking a hardline stand on illegal immigration and said the voters elected President Donald Trump to do just that.

Immigrant families line up to enter the central bus station after they were processed and released by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Sunday, June 24, 2018, in McAllen, Texas. AP

"This is the Trump era," he said. "We are enforcing our laws again. We know whose side we are on—so does this group—and we're on the side of police, and we're on the side of the public safety of the American people."

The Justice Department did not immediately respond to a request for a comment on the multistate lawsuit and had no comment on the Los Angeles filing.

More than 2,000 children have been separated from their parents in recent weeks and placed in government-contracted shelters—hundreds of miles away, in some cases—under a now-abandoned policy toward families caught illegally entering the U.S.

Amid an international outcry, Trump last week issued an executive order to stop the separation of families and said parents and children will instead be detained together.

But precious few families have been reunited, and the Trump administration has disclosed next to nothing on how the process will be carried out or how long it will take.

Juan Sanchez, chief executive of the nation's largest shelters for migrant children, said he fears a lack of urgency by the U.S. government could mean it will take months to reunite families.

Sanchez with the nonprofit Southwest Key Programs said in an interview with The Associated Press that the government has no process in place to speed the return of children to their parents.

"It could take days," he said. "Or it could take a month, two months, six or even nine. I just don't know."

Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar told Congress on Tuesday that his department still has custody of 2,047 immigrant children separated from their parents at the border. That is only six fewer children than the number in HHS custody as of last Wednesday.

Democratic senators said that wasn't nearly enough progress.

High court OKs Trump's travel ban, rejects Muslim bias claim

WASHINGTON (AP)—A sharply divided Supreme Court upheld President Donald Trump's ban on travel from several mostly Muslim countries Tuesday, the conservative majority taking his side in a major ruling supporting his presidential power. A dissenting liberal justice said the court was making a historic mistake by refusing to recognize the ban discriminates against Muslims.

The 5-4 decision was a big victory for Trump in the court's first substantive ruling on one of his administration's policies. It also was the latest demonstration of a newly invigorated conservative majority and a bitter defeat for the court's liberals.

The ruling came on an issue that has been central for Trump, from his campaign outbursts against "radical Islamic terrorism" through his presidency. He tweeted a quick reaction—"Wow!"—and then celebrated at greater length before TV cameras.

Chief Justice John Roberts wrote the majority opinion for the five conservative justices, including Trump nominee Neil Gorsuch, who got his seat only after Republicans blocked President Barack Obama's nominee for the last 10 months of Obama's term.

Roberts wrote that the travel ban was well within U.S. presidents' considerable authority over immigration and responsibility for keeping the nation safe. He rejected the challengers' claim of anti-Muslim bias that rested in large part on Trump's own tweets and statements over the past three years.

But Roberts was careful not to endorse either Trump's statements about immigration in general or Muslims in particular, including his campaign call for "a complete and total shutdown of Muslims entering the United States."

The travel ban has been fully in place since December, when the justices put the brakes on lower court rulings that had ruled the policy out of bounds and blocked part of it from being enforced. It applies even to people with close relatives in the United States and other strong connections to the country.

In a dissent she summarized aloud in court, Justice Sonia Sotomayor said, "History will not look kindly on the court's misguided decision today, nor should it." Justices Stephen Breyer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Elena Kagan also dissented.

Sotomayor wrote that based on the evidence in the case "a reasonable observer would conclude that the Proclamation was motivated by anti-Muslim animus." She said her colleagues in the majority arrived at the opposite result by "ignoring the facts, misconstruing our legal precedent and turning a blind eye to the pain and suffering the Proclamation inflicts upon countless families and individuals, many of whom are United States citizens."

She likened the case to the discredited Korematsu V. U.S. decision that upheld the detention of Japanese-Americans during World War II. Roberts responded in his opinion that "Korematsu has nothing to do with this case" and "was gravely wrong the day it was decided."

ACROSS THE NATION

Police in Texas fatally shoot teen fleeing traffic stop

DALLAS (AP)—An officer in Southeast Texas shot and killed a 19-year-old man who was fleeing police after an attempted traffic stop early Monday, authorities said. A statement from the Galveston County Sheriff's Office said Luis Fernendo Argueta died after a Galveston police officer opened fired early Monday. The lead up to the gunfire began when Galveston officers saw a suspicious vehicle in the parking lot of a convenience store and tried to make a traffic stop, according to the statement. Authorities said Argueta drove away from officers and then fled on foot into a vacant lot after stopping the vehicle. County Sheriff Henry Trochesset, in an interview Tuesday, said the teenager was fatally shot while fleeing authorities. His office said a Galveston officer fired two rounds after giving "verbal commands" to the fleeing teen. The teenager was pronounced dead after being taken to a hospital.

Police: Shirtless man on tarmac arrested, jumped on plane

ATLANTA (AP)—Authorities say they've arrested a 19-year-old man accused of sprinting shirtless toward a jet at Atlanta's airport and jumping on the wing. News outlets report Atlanta Police have charged Jhryin Jones with criminal trespassing, public indecency and obstruction of law enforcement officers. Atlanta police spokeswoman Stephanie Brown tells The Atlanta Journal-Constitution that Jones scaled a fence Tuesday at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport and ran onto an active taxiway. She says he then jumped on the wing of a recently landed Delta Air Lines flight from Miami and pounded on windows. Video obtained by WSB-TV shows a shirtless man sprinting across a grassy area toward an aircraft. Photographs showed the man being detained on the ground by officers. The airport tweeted there was no impact on operations.

Officials ID Minneapolis cops involved in fatal shooting

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—State investigators on Tuesday released the names of the two Minneapolis officers who were involved in the fatal shooting of a black man, whose death prompted multiple demonstrations and calls for greater transparency from investigators. Thurman Blevins Jr., 31, was shot and killed Saturday after Officers Ryan Kelly and Justin Schmidt pursued him on foot for several blocks and into a north Minneapolis alley. Investigators said Kelly and Ryan were responding to at least one report of a man firing a handgun outside. The officers arrived to find Blevins sitting with a woman on a curb before he ran, carrying a black and silver gun. The head of the police union has said Blevins ignored commands to drop the gun and pulled it out before the officers fired. Some community members have argued Blevins was not armed, and there have been calls for the swift release of body camera footage.

Mitt Romney wins GOP primary in Utah Senate race Utah

SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Mitt Romney has won the Republican primary for a Utah Senate seat, setting him on the path to re-start his political career with a Senate seat left open by retiring Sen. Orrin Hatch. Romney secured the nomination Tuesday against state lawmaker Mike Kennedy after fending off attacks on his onetime criticism of President Donald Trump. The former presidential candidate was the heavy favorite to win the race in Utah, where he moved after his failed 2012 presidential run and is a beloved adopted son. Romney blasted Trump during the 2016 presidential campaign, though the two men have largely buried the hatchet, and Romney has accepted the president's endorsement.

Asia

Flooding complicates cave search for Thai soccer team

MAE SAI, Thailand (AP)—Efforts to rescue 12 boys and their soccer coach who have been missing inside a flooded cave in northern Thailand for three days hinge on pumping out water so that navy divers have room to operate, the first high-level Thai official to visit the site said Tuesday.

Interior Minister Anupong Paojinda told reporters that navy SEAL divers leading the search are seriously handicapped by muddy water that has filled some chambers of the large cave to the ceilings. He said the divers can proceed only when enough water is pumped out so there is space between the water and the ceiling to make it safer to work. The divers will also soon start using special oxygen tanks that provide longer diving times, he said.

A SEAL diver said the water is so murky that even with lights they cannot see where they are going underwater, so they need to be able to lift their heads above the water.

Anupong said rescuers would be working night and day in the dark cave.

"The SEAL team will be working nonstop because it's already dark here too," he said. "So night and day doesn't make a big difference. They'll just need to rotate."

About a dozen navy divers and other rescuers re-entered the cave on Tuesday morning to search for the boys, aged 11-16, who have been missing since their coach took them to the Tham Luang Nang Non cave complex on Saturday after a practice match. But the search had to be suspended again because of high water.

Divers have been seeking a way forward through the chambers of the cave complex, but have been forced to suspend their search several times. The authorities are also seeking alternative ways in, using helicopters and search parties on foot to find possible holes in the ceilings of other parts of the cave.

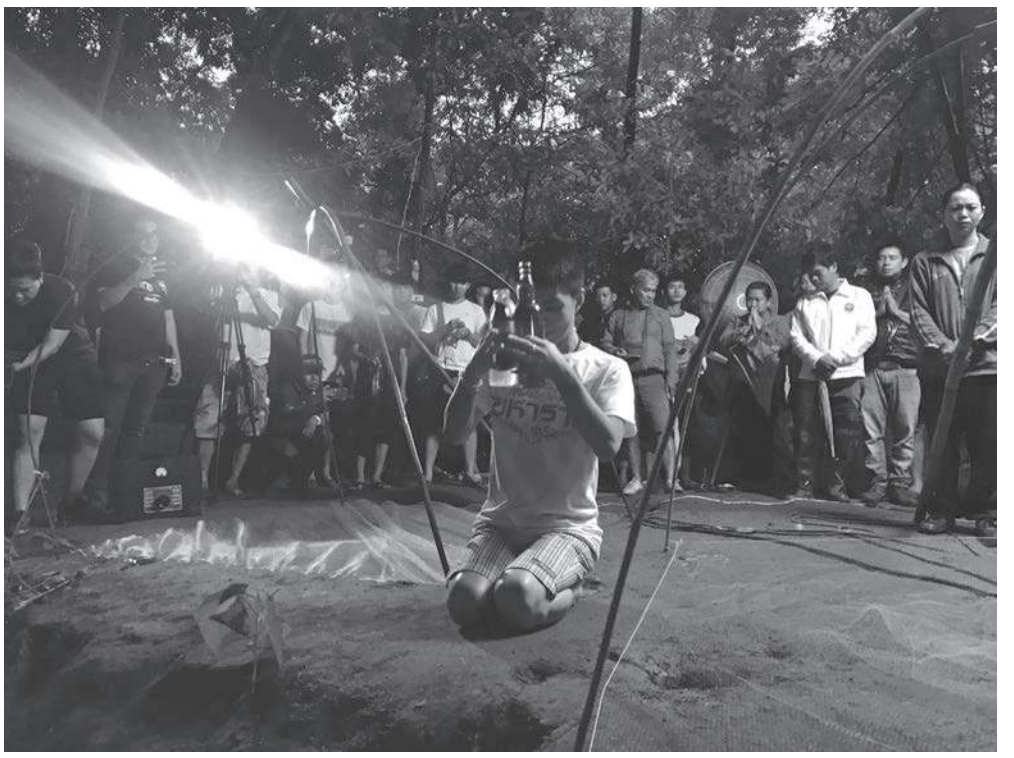
A small glimmer of hope was dashed Tuesday afternoon after explorers found two fissures in the rock on the mountain in which the cave is located. After evaluation, experts found neither could be used as a "chimney" to gain access to the cave.

Rain that fell overnight increased the difficulty of exploring inside the cave. However, the initial chambers near the cave's entrance are dry, and a power line was extended inside to provide light and ventilation and help the divers communicate with those outside.

The boys and their 25-year-old coach entered the cave in Chiang Rai province late Saturday afternoon. A mother reported that her son did not return from soccer practice that day, setting off the search.

Relatives of the missing boys and others performed a ritual Tuesday morning calling for those who are missing. They played drums and gongs and two relatives held fishing nets as symbols to fish out lost spirits from the cave. Organizer Jiratat Kodyee said the ritual was a traditional way of showing support for the boys' families.

The cave complex extends several kilometers (miles) and has wide chambers and narrow passageways with rocky outcrops and changes in elevation. Still, officials have said they are hopeful the boys found a safe space away from the floods.



A group of locals and relatives perform a ritual calling for those are missing at the entrance of the cave, using drums and gongs Tuesday, June 26, 2018, in Mae Sai, Chiang Rai province, northern Thailand. AP

ASIAN BRIEFS

Philippine military: troops kill 6 police in mistaken clash

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine troops mistakenly killed six policemen and wounded nine others whom they thought were communist guerrillas in the country's central hinterlands, military and police officials said. Maj. Gen. Raul Farnacio, a regional military commander, said an army platoon that had been waging a counterinsurgency operation for six days stumbled upon a group of policemen in a remote village in Samar province and the two sides traded gunfire for about half an hour. An investigation of the "unfortunate incident" was underway, he said. The communist rebellion, which has raged since 1969, has left about 40,000 combatants and civilians dead and has stunted economic development in the impoverished countryside. The military says a few thousand Maoist insurgents are continuing to wage the insurgency. When he took power in 2016, President Rodrigo Duterte resumed peace talks with the guerrillas but canceled the negotiations last year to protest continued guerrilla attacks on troops, and signed an order declaring the rebel group a terrorist organization.

Women accused of poisoning NKorean scion arrive for trial

SHAH ALAM, Malaysia (AP)—Two women accused of poisoning the estranged half brother of North Korea's leader arrived at court Wednesday for closing arguments in a murder trial that could send the women to the gallows. Siti Aisyah of Indonesia and Doan Thi Huong of Vietnam are accused of smearing the VX nerve agent on Kim Jong Nam's face in a crowded airport terminal in Kuala Lumpur on Feb. 13, 2017. The women have pleaded not guilty, saying they thought they were taking part in a harmless prank for a hidden-camera show. They are the only suspects in custody, although prosecutors say four North Koreans who fled the country on the day of the attack were the masterminds. The crux of the case revolves around whether the women intended to kill Kim or if they truly were scapegoats duped by North Korean agents into taking part in a cold-blooded murder.

Taliban calls Islamic Scholars conferences a US process

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The Afghan Taliban on Tuesday denounced the so-called Islamic Scholars conferences in Asia and the Middle East as an "American process" and urged clerics to reject the gatherings. The Taliban alleged in a statement that the U.S. first gathered religious scholars for a conference in Indonesia in May, and has since organized similar conferences in Kabul, Islamabad, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. No date has been set for a conference in Saudi Arabia. The Taliban said in the statement they consider the conferences to be anti-Islamic and led by the U.S. It said the U.S. is using them to seek justification for its "military occupation" of Afghanistan. "The Islamic Emirate urges religious scholars to reject these conferences which are a scheme of the invaders," it said.

Japan space explorer arrives at asteroid to collect samples

TOKYO (AP)—A Japanese space explorer arrived at an asteroid Wednesday after a 3½-year journey and now begins its real work of trying to blow a crater to collect samples to eventually bring back to Earth.

The unmanned Hayabusa2 spacecraft reached its base of operations about 20 kilometers (12 miles) from the asteroid and some 280 million kilometers (170 million miles) from Earth, the Japan Space Exploration Agency said.

Over the next year and a half, the spacecraft will attempt three brief touch-and-go landings to collect samples. If the retrieval and the return journey are successful, the asteroid material could provide clues to the origin of the solar system and life on Earth.

The mission is challenging. The robotic explorer will spend about two months looking for suitable landing places on the uneven surface. Because of the high surface temperature, it will stay for only a few seconds each time it lands.

The asteroid, named Ryugu after an undersea palace in a Japanese folktale, is about 900 meters (3,000 feet) in diameter. In photos released by JAXA, the Japanese space agency, it appears more cube-shaped than round. A number of large craters can be seen, which Project Manager Yuichi Tsuda said in an online post makes the selection of landing points "both interesting and difficult."

The first touchdown is planned for September or October. Before the final touchdown scheduled for April-May, Hayabusa2 will send out a squat cylinder that will detonate above the asteroid, shooting a 2-kilogram (4.4-pound) copper projectile into it at high speed to make a crater.

Hayabusa2 will hide on the other side of the asteroid to protect itself during the operation and wait another two to three weeks to make sure any debris that could damage the explorer has cleared. It will then attempt to land at or near the crater to collect underground material that was blown out of the crater, in addition to the surface material from the earlier touchdowns.

The spacecraft will also deploy three rovers that don't have wheels but can hop around on the surface of the asteroid to conduct probes. Hayabusa2 will also send a French-German-made lander to study the surface with four observation devices.

Koreas agree to improve North's railways, but work must wait

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The rival Koreas have agreed to jointly study ways to improve North Korea's outdated railways and link them with the South, as they continued to take conciliatory steps amid global efforts to resolve the standoff over the North's nuclear weapons.

North Korea's state media on Wednesday acknowledged inter-Korean discussions on "issues arising in reconnecting, updating and using the railways on the east and west coasts," but did not describe that South Korea would be sending officials and experts to examine the country's aging rail system.

The agreement Tuesday to start joint inspections of North Korea's railways on July 24 was apparently as far as the rivals could go at the moment. The vows to upgrade the North's railways and roads will remain purely aspirational until international sanctions against North Korea are lifted and the South is freed to take material steps.

The talks at the border village of Panmunjom were the latest to discuss ways to carry out peace commitments made by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in.

During their April 27 summit, when they issued a vague commitment to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula, Kim and Moon expressed a desire to modernize North Korea's railways and roads and reconnect them with the South. The Koreas are to hold another meeting on Thursday to discuss roads.

South Korean officials say better transport would greatly improve North Korea's economy by facilitating trade and tourism. It may also provide the South with cheaper ways to move goods in and out of China and Russia. However, some experts say updating North Korean trains, which creak slowly along rails that were first laid in the early 20th century, would require a massive effort that could take decades and tens of billions of dollars. It might be impossible to embark on such projects unless North Korea denuclearizes, which isn't a sure thing.

World

Fighting in Syria's south escalates, displaces 50,000 people

BEIRUT (AP)—Fighting escalated in southern Syria as government forces on Tuesday pushed deeper into rebel-held territories in Daraa province in a weeklong offensive that the United Nations estimates has displaced up to 50,000 people.

Jordan said its borders will remain closed for any new refugees, calling on the U.N. to provide security in southern Syria.

Jens Laerke, a spokesman for the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, said aid officials were "deeply concerned" for those fleeing the fighting and heading toward the sealed border with Jordan. He called on warring parties to "ensure the protection of these civilians, according to international law."

AP

This photo provided by Nabaa Media, a Syrian opposition media outlet, shows smoke rising over buildings that were hit by Syrian government forces bombardment, in Daraa, southern Syria, Tuesday, June 26, 2018.

Daraa's residents described living in extreme fear and said many had also headed to the frontier with the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, believing it to be safer.

The escalation in Daraa, near Jordan and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, came as Syria's state media reported that two Israeli missiles struck an area near the Damascus International Airport early Tuesday, without naming a specific target.

Since last Tuesday, Syrian troops have targeted rebel-held areas in eastern Daraa, one of the country's last major rebel strongholds. The strategic area was part of a truce deal reached last July between the United States, Russia and Jordan.

The offensive's goal appears to be regaining control of the border crossing with Jordan, which has been in rebel hands since 2015. President Bashar Assad's recent military victories, including the capture of Damascus suburbs and southern neighborhoods, have propelled the push.

Opposition activists said Syrian and Russian warplanes are taking part in the offensive. Russia's air force threw its weight behind Assad's forces in 2015, turning the tide of the war in his favor.

On Tuesday, the pro-government Central Military Media said Syrian troops gained control of al-Lujat, a rocky area in northeastern Daraa. It said the capture would have a domino effect on other parts east of Daraa and cut rebel supply lines.

Other pro-government media said the army intends to bring the entire province under its control and is likely to move on to western Daraa, where it conducted a series of airstrikes Monday.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a war-monitoring group, reported that government forces were advancing in al-Lujat and captured seven new villages in the area.

Daraa-based opposition activist Osama Hourani denied the government controls parts of al-Lujat, saying the area, known for its caves and rocky plains, will be a challenge for Assad's troops.

Waseem Kiwan, a 36-year old civilian in the village of Tafas north of Daraa city said nothing has been spared in the intensive bombing campaign.

"The area is heading toward a catastrophe, a humanitarian catastrophe in every sense of the word," he said. "People are living in extreme fear."

Kiwan said many are heading toward the frontier with the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

"The safest place is the border with Israel because the regime and Russian airplanes cannot strike the area," he said.

Younis Shtawi, a police officer in the Daraa village of Umm al-Mayadeen, said several villages, including Busra al-Harir, Atesh and communities in al-Lujat have been emptied of people in recent days.

Immigrant mother separated from boy: 'I dream of my son'

EL PASO, Texas (AP)—They came from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador, with children in tow. Some were fleeing violence. Others were looking for a better life.

They didn't know they would be separated from their children after crossing the U.S.-Mexico border due to a zero-tolerance policy that called for prosecuting every adult who entered the country illegally.

Five parents out of a group of more than 30 who were recently released from federal custody pending the outcome of their immigration and asylum cases shared their stories Monday during a news conference in El Paso. They have found temporary shelter with a Texas charity organization, with their locations tracked by ankle monitors.

Some have no idea where their children are. Others do but can't say with any certainty when they might see them again. Their children range in age from 4 to 17.

One father said he felt broken without his teenage son, while another cried over his daughter. A mother wiped away tears, fearing that her 4-year-old son believes she abandoned him.

They are just a few of the many families who have been thrust into the center of a long simmering debate over how to handle the flood of migrants on the southern border. The five immigrants spoke on the condition that their last names not be used for fear of deportation by U.S. authorities.

IRIS

Detained on June 15, she and her 6-year-old son clung to each other after learning they would be separated and that she was being sent to jail.

The 40-year-old single mother from Honduras asked that they be deported together immediately. She was told it was too late. She let go and persuaded her son to do the same after officials said they would be separated—one way or another.

Iris learned her son is somewhere in Arizona after a social worker contacted a relative. Most of the 32 recently released parents are likely to leave El Paso as they obtain more information and seek out their children.

"I go to sleep at night, and the first thing I do is dream of my son," she said.

MIRIAM

Her 4-year-old son was asleep as immigration agents insisted on separating the two of them in the early morning before dawn.

"If I had known, I never would have come" to the United States, she said.

The Guatemalan mother said she was led to believe when arrested that her son would be returned to her, wherever she was held. She described the boy as tiny and shy.

She located him at a holding facility in New York. When she asked a social worker to speak with him, she was told the boy was angry and would not talk.

"He thinks you abandoned him," she was told.

It's unclear when they might be reunited as she pursues asylum in the U.S.

CHRISTIAN

After traveling 17 days from Honduras to reach the U.S. border, he was arrested for crossing illegally.

"They said I had violated the laws of the United States," said the 23-year-old farmhand. "I said, yes, I accept that, but could they take me away with my daughter."

He broke down while recounting that his 5-year-old daughter was more afraid for him, knowing that he was going to jail.

Christian spoke to his daughter a week ago, when an official with the local sheriff's office intervened to find her at a holding facility in Chicago.

Uber wins back license in London—but is put on probation

LONDON (AP)—A London court gave ride-hailing firm Uber a shorter than usual license to keep operating in the capital, accepting Tuesday the firm's claim that it has changed its aggressive corporate tactics and is now a more responsible corporate citizen.

But Chief Magistrate Emma Arbuthnot granted an operating license lasting just 15 months, short of the five-year permit Uber had had been seeking. That means the company will remain under scrutiny and serve a probation period of sorts in meeting the terms of regulators at Transport for London.

"The rapid and very recent changes undergone by (Uber) lead me to conclude that a shorter period will enable TFL to test out the new arrangements," the judge wrote in her ruling.

London transport officials had revoked Uber's license in September. They had objected, among other things, to the company's failure to report serious criminal offenses and its use of technology to allegedly evade law enforcement officials.

In this week's appeal, the firm admitted it had been wrong, and apologized.

That was an important factor to Abruthnot, who said Uber would be monitored by London transport authorities and ordered Uber to pay 425,000 pounds ($562,000) in court costs.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan said that Transport for London's actions had been vindicated, proving the regulator was correct in rejecting the license last year.

"Uber has been forced to overhaul the way it operates not just in London but across the world, including completely changing its global governance structures and implementing new systems for reporting alleged crimes," he said. "As mayor, I'm working to ensure that London continues to be at the forefront of innovation and a natural home for new and exciting companies. But no matter how powerful and how big you are, you must play by the rules."

Skip the barbecue? Lack of CO2 hits EU beer, meat production

LONDON (AP)—Europeans may have to cut back on their summer barbecues.

A shortage of carbon dioxide that has already halted some beer production is also hitting food processing companies. Scotland's biggest pork producer said Tuesday it would run out of the gas in a week.

Slaughterhouses use industrially made carbon dioxide to stun animals before slaughter, and also use it in packaging to increase shelf-life in stores.

It is obtained as a byproduct in the production of fertilizers. That means that companies that use the gas, like breweries and slaughterhouses, have no say in how much is produced.

Carbon dioxide production is usually lower in the summer because of the hot weather, but a string of problems across the sector in Europe have caused fertilizer makers to shut down more plants than usual. Though the shortage is Europe-wide, Britain's gas manufacturers have suffered additional mechanical problems that have further reduced supply.

Overall production of carbon dioxide was already under pressure as the market for the fertilizer ammonium nitrate has weakened, said Nick Allen, head of the British Meat Processors Association.

"Things are getting tight," he said.

Allen said the shortage of carbon dioxide "might well affect the price of meat." Many major suppliers "will have to make very serious decisions about their levels of production."

In Britain, the government prioritizes carbon dioxide for use in hospitals and fire-extinguishers, so companies that use the gas for manufacturing—of goods as diverse as fizzy drinks and meat—are being supplied with less.

Focus

Do you really know what your kid's doing on that device?

CHICAGO (AP)—Ayrial Miller is clearly annoyed. Her mother is sitting with her on the couch in their Chicago apartment, scrolling through the teen's contacts on social media.

"Who's this?" asks Jennea Bivens, aka Mom.

It's a friend of a friend, Ayrial says, and they haven't talked in a while.

"Delete it," her mom says.

The 13-year-old's eyes narrow to a surly squint. "I hate this! I hate this! I hate this!" she shouts.

Yes, Bivens is one of "those moms," she says. The type who walks into her daughter's bedroom without knocking; the kind who tightly monitors her daughter's phone. She makes no apology.

Nor should she, says a retired cybercrimes detective who spoke to her and other parents in early June at Nathan Hale Elementary School in Chicago.

"There is no such thing as privacy for children," Rich Wistocki told them.

Other tech experts might disagree. But even they worry about the secret digital lives many teens are leading, and the dreadful array of consequences—including harassment and occasional suicides—that can result.

Today's kids are meeting strangers, some of them adults, on a variety of apps. They range from the seemingly innocuous Musical.ly—which lets users share lip-syncing videos—to WhatsApp and, more recently, Houseparty, a group video chat service. Teens are storing risque photos in disguised vault apps, and then trading those photos like baseball cards.

David Coffey, a dad and tech expert from Cadillac, Michigan, said he was floored when his two teens told him about some of the sneaky things their peers are doing, even in their small, rural town.

"I gotta hand it to their creativity, but it's only enabled through technology," says Coffey, chief digital officer at IDShield, a company that helps customers fend off identity theft.

It's difficult to say how many kids are pushing digital boundaries this way, not least because the whole point is to escape adult detection. Social media accounts are easy to establish and discard. Particular apps also rise and fall out of favor among teens with lightning speed, making them a moving target for researchers.

But academics, experts like Wistocki and Coffey, and many teens themselves say it's surprisingly common for kids to live online lives that are all but invisible to most parents—for better or worse.

Parents are clearly outmatched. Exposed to tablets and smartphones at an increasingly early age, kids are correspondingly savvier about using them and easily share tips with friends. Parents, by contrast, are both overwhelmed and often naive about what kids can do with sophisticated devices, says Wistocki, whose packed schedule has him crisscrossing the country to speak to parents and young people.

He often holds up a mobile phone and tells wide-eyed parents that giving a kid this "ominous device"—and allowing them to have it any time, including charging in their rooms at night—is like handing over the keys to a new Mercedes and saying, "Sweetheart you can go to Vegas. You can drive to Texas, Florida, New York, wherever you want to go."

And kids are more than happy to oblige. At a separate talk for students at Nathan Hale, a large K-8 public school near Chicago's Midway airport, Wistocki asked who had accounts on Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat and other apps and games with social components. Most of the kids in attendance, many younger than 13, raised their hands.

Afterward, one girl, all frizzy hair and braces, approached a reporter with desperation. "Please, please, pleeeeease, don't use my picture or a video of me raising my hand," the 13-year-old begged repeatedly, despite assurances that she wasn't caught on camera.

"Don't use mine either," a friend quickly piped in. Throughout the day, kids said their parents either don't know they're on social media or have little idea what they do with their accounts.

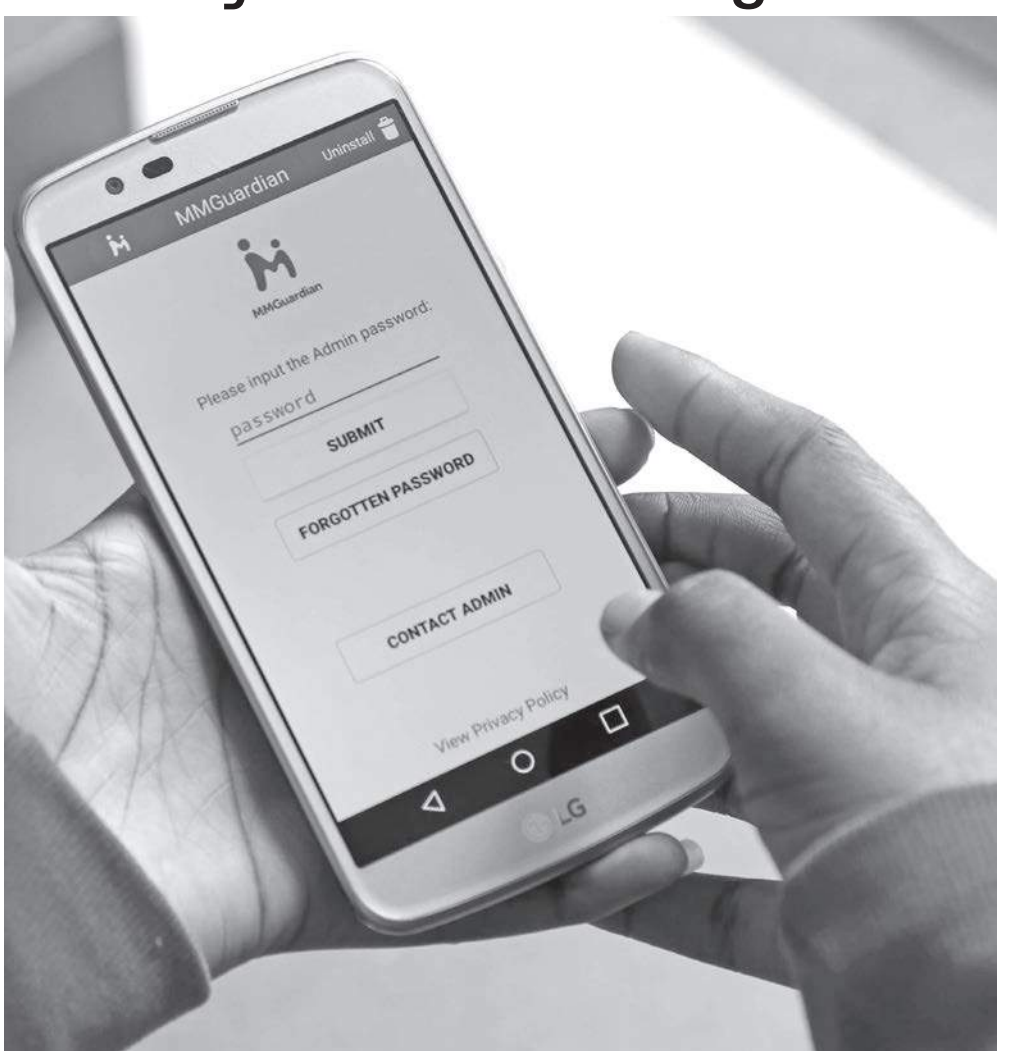
That exasperates Dawn Iles-Gomez, the school's principal, whose days are increasingly filled with drama that begins on social media.

And it's often not the usual suspects in her office, she says, but a diverse parade of students she sees acting one way in person and very differently in the digital world.

"It's shocking—the language and the threats and the mean things that are said," she says. "And I would say 75 percent of the time, I call a parent and their parent will say, 'Well, no, they said they didn't do that.'

"And I'm like, 'Well—they did.'"

These kinds of incidents can turn particularly ugly, sometimes involving surprisingly young participants.



AP

Ayrial Miller, 13, takes a quick moment to check her phone at Nathan Hale Elementary School in Chicago on Friday, June 8, 2018, to show how the monitoring software her mom has installed on the phone works.

In January, two 12-year-olds were arrested in Panama City Beach, Florida, for cyberstalking that police said led to the suicide of a classmate named Gabriella Green, who'd been repeatedly bullied.

In other instances, young people are buying drugs via social media or encrypted websites. Or, as Coffey's kids explained to him, they can use prepaid "gift" cards for Amazon or eBay—available at most any drugstore—to buy contraband. They order makeup, say, or vaping accessories, and have them delivered to friends' houses.

Law enforcement officials say the taking and sharing of racy "sexting" photos and videos also has become a common and even expected component of dating life for many teens.

Last year in Naperville, the Chicago suburb where Wistocki worked as a detective for many years, a 16-year-old killed himself after police discovered that he'd recorded himself having sex with a classmate and then shared the recording with his hockey teammates. While searching his phone, they also found photos of other partially nude girls in a secret photo vault app disguised as a calculator.

And yet, Wistocki says, too often parents remain in denial with what he calls "NMK—not my kid."

To get parents to the meeting with Wistocki at Nathan Hale, the principal offered extra 8th-grade graduation passes and other incentives. Only about 70 parents showed up; the school has 930 students.

Kathleen Kazupski, a mom with two daughters ages 13 and 17, was one of them. "As parents, we need to wake up, no doubt," she said afterward.

She came, in part, because she discovered last fall that her younger daughter was messaging with a boy she didn't know—first on Snapchat and then via text—until Mom put an end to it. "I scared the hell out of her."

Bivens, Ayrial's mom, also attended. She uses an app called MMGuardian, one of several available, to manage and monitor her 13-year-old daughter's phone use. She shuts the phone down during the school day (though her daughter can still call her) and at bedtime. She turns off certain apps, sometimes as punishment, and monitors texts.

To closely watch most social media, though, she has to use her daughter's phone. When that's not possible, she checks what she can see from the accounts she knows exist, using her own accounts. Recently, she got after her daughter for cussing on some of her video posts.

"It's a full-time job," Bivens concedes. "People laugh at me because I monitor her stuff. But I don't have the same problems as other people do."

A 2016 Pew Research Center survey found that only about half of parents said they had ever checked their children's phone calls and text messages or even friended their kids on social media. They were even less likely to use tech-based tools to monitor their teens or block certain apps.

Android phones now offer some parental restriction options, including screen time limits and app blocking, via a service called Google Family Link—though it's designed specifically for kids younger than 13. An upcoming update to iPhone system software, which already allows for parental approval of app and music purchases, will give parents more control over screen time, app usage and web surfing on iPhones, iPads and iPods.

Independent monitoring apps also have proliferated. Some give parents more options for viewing and managing what their kids are posting on services such as Instagram or Snapchat—often for a monthly fee. These tend to be more effective on Android phones, says Wistocki, who recommends such tools in his talks with parents.

He closely monitored his own sons until they turned 18, and tells parents they should do the same.

Other tech experts agree that monitoring makes sense for younger kids. But Pam Wisniewski, a computer-science professor at the University of Central Florida, is among those who suggest a gradual loosening of the strings as teens prove they can be trusted.

"I'm almost to the point where I feel like the world would be better off without social media," says Wisniewski, who studies human computer interaction and adolescent online safety. "But I'm also a pragmatist."

Rather than cutting off kids from social media, she encourages parents to look for teachable moments. When inappropriate material runs through their feed, for instance, she suggests discussing coping strategies, such as hiding that person's posts or blocking them.

Sarita Schoenebeck, an assistant professor and director of the Living Online Lab at the University of Michigan, says her research also has found that shutting teens out of social media only tends to make them sneakier.

"No kid wants to be pulled over and told not to do this," Schoenebeck says. "Try to figure out how to talk about it in an open-minded way."

Even Wistocki, while hardcore on monitoring, tells parents to offer their children the "Golden Ticket"—no punishment when they come to them about mistakes they've made online or help they need with a social media problem.

Ayrial's mom is all for that, especially having learned that monitoring and blocks on apps aren't foolproof. Recently, Ayrial started a live videostream on Twitter and encountered a stranger who asked her to show her bare feet. It was a "creepy" request, the teen said, that caused her to end the connection quickly.

She had sidestepped a block on social media by using a tablet. But she did tell Mom what happened soon after.

Ayrial still isn't happy that her mom is going through her contacts with her. The soon-to-be eighth-grader appreciates that "she cares about me," but hopes Mom will eventually "back up" a bit.

"When I'm in high school, that might get embarrassing sometimes, you know?" she says. "You need to learn your own—how do I put this?—discipline. . You need to learn from your own mistakes."

If Mom doesn't give her that space, she says, she's always coming up with new tricks to get online secretly, just as her friends do.

And no, she won't share how.

Environment

US judge throws out climate change lawsuits against big oil

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A U.S. judge who held a hearing about climate change that received widespread attention ruled Monday that Congress and the president were best suited to address the contribution of fossil fuels to global warming, throwing out lawsuits that sought to hold big oil companies liable for the Earth's changing environment.

Noting that the world has also benefited significantly from oil and other fossil fuel, Judge William Alsup said questions about how to balance the "worldwide positives of the energy" against its role in global warming "demand the expertise of our environmental agencies, our diplomats, our Executive, and at least the Senate."

"The problem deserves a solution on a more vast scale than can be supplied by a district judge or jury in a public nuisance case," he said.

Alsup's ruling came in lawsuits brought by San Francisco and neighboring Oakland that accused Chevron, Exxon Mobil, ConocoPhillips, BP and Royal Dutch Shell of long knowing that fossil fuels posed serious risks to the environment, but still promoting them as environmentally responsible.

The lawsuits said the companies created a public nuisance and should pay for sea walls and other infrastructure to protect against the effects of climate change—construction that could cost billions of dollars.

The Oakland city attorney's offices did not immediately have comment. John Cote, a spokesman for the San Francisco city attorney's office, said the office was reviewing the ruling and would decide its next steps "shortly," but the lawsuit had "forced a public court proceeding on climate science."

"We're pleased that the court recognized that the science of global warming is no longer in dispute," he said.

New York City, several California counties and at least one other California city filed similar suits.

The companies said federal law controlled fossil fuel production, and Congress encouraged oil and gas development. The harm the cities claimed was "speculative" and part of a complex chain of events that included billions of oil and gas users and "environmental phenomena occurring worldwide over many decades," they said in court documents.

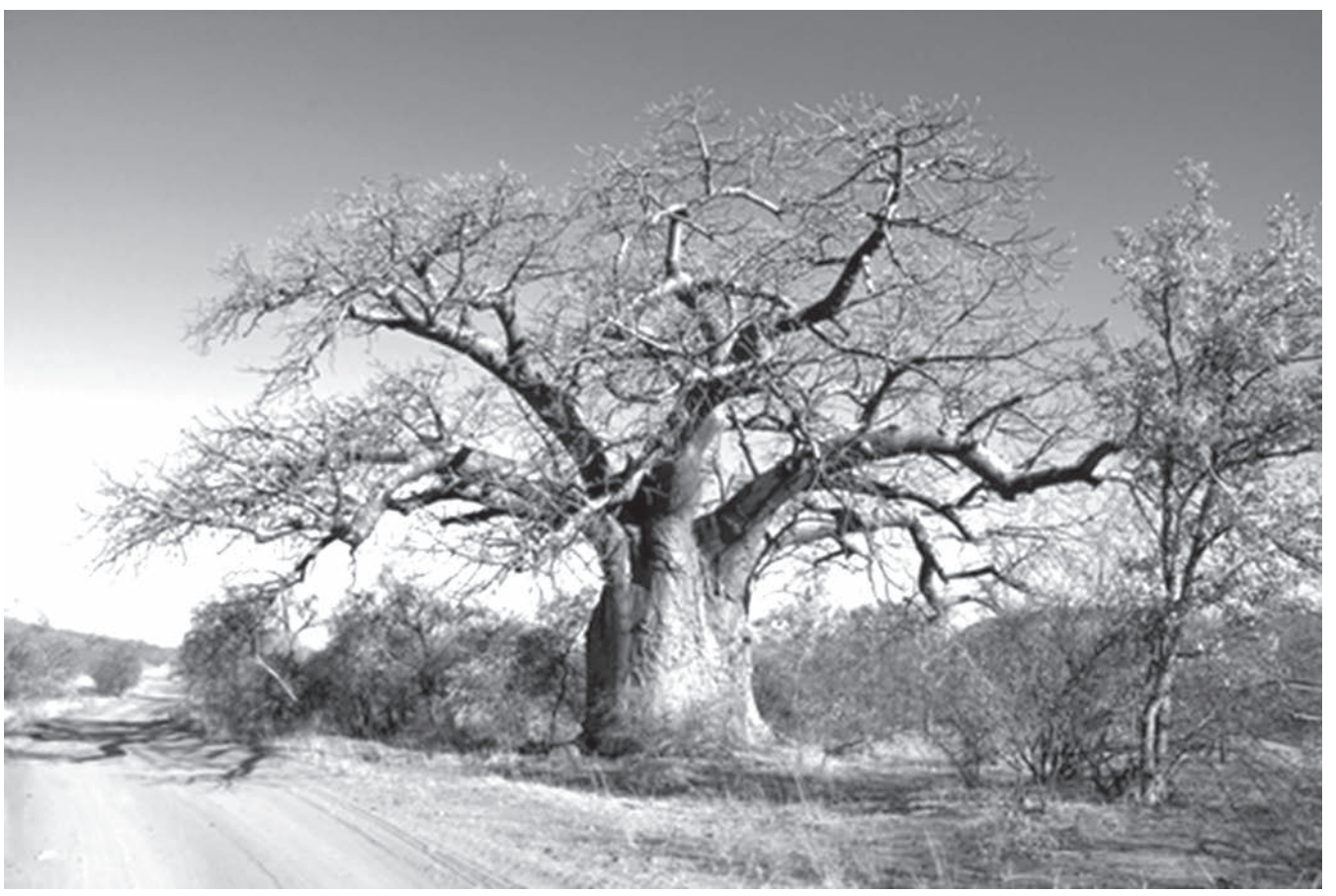
National Association of Manufacturers President and CEO Jay Timmons applauded the ruling in a statement. "From the moment these baseless lawsuits were filed, we have argued that the courtroom was not the proper venue to address this global challenge," said Timmons.

Alsup brought in the world's leading experts on climate change at an unusual hearing in March that he said was intended to educate him about the science behind the Earth's warming.

The nearly five-hour hearing covered topics including the history of climate change research, carbon dioxide's role as a greenhouse gas, melting ice caps, rising sea levels and extreme weather.

In Monday's ruling, the judge said he accepted the "vast scientific consensus" that the combustion of fossil fuels has contributed to global warming and rising sea levels. But he questioned whether it would be fair to "ignore our own responsibility in the use of fossil fuels and place the blame for global warming on those who supplied what we demanded."

Africa's baobab trees can live for more than 1,000 years, but the oldest are dying



African Baobab tree (Adansonia) situated next to dirt road against a blue sky. DREAMSTIME/TNS

By AMINA KHAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The oldest and biggest angiosperm trees in the world, the African baobabs, are dying or already dead, an international team of scientists has found.

The scientists said the spate of deaths, described in the journal Nature Plants, might be the result of a changing climate but that research needs to be done to determine that.

The baobab known as Adansonia digitata L. is an icon of the African savannah. With wide, cylindrical trunks and gnarled branches, the trees appear to have been yanked out of the ground, flipped over and shoved back in, roots in the air. These giant plants are the largest and longest-living angiosperm (flowering) trees today, with some individuals surviving for close to 2,000 years.

Baobab trees have been nicknamed the "tree of life," perhaps because their trunks and branches can store large volumes of water in a dry and often unforgiving landscape — stores that humans and animals have relied on. But they could just as well be called the giving tree: The leaves and fruit of many species also provide nutritious food, their bark can be made into rope and cloth, their wood can be harvested for hunting and fishing tools, and their broad, often hollow trunks can be used for shelter.

But until recently, much about these trees was not known with confidence, which is why in 2005 the team of researchers began a project to study their structure, growth and age.

Over the years, the scientists have found that big African baobab specimens always have multiple stems. While baobabs typically begin growing as single-stemmed trees, they produce new ones over time, developing increasingly complex structures. The multiple stems can start to trace out a ring-shaped structure, containing an empty space within.

These structures defy ring-counting, the traditional method of age-dating trees. So the scientists instead used accelerator mass spectrometry to perform radiocarbon dating on samples from the largest, oldest trees in southern Africa.

The researchers found that since 2005 eight of the 13 oldest, and five of the six largest, African baobab trees have either died or their oldest parts or stems died. That includes Panke, a sacred baobab in Zimbabwe that was estimated to be about 2,450 years old, with an 82-foot-wide trunk and a height of 51 feet. In 2010, its branches started to fall off; then its multiple stems began to split and topple over. By 2011 it was dead.

Florida has most in the nation to lose from sea rise

By ALEX HARRIS
MIAMI HERALD

Florida stands to lose more homes—and real estate value—to sea-rise damage than any other state in the nation this century, according to a new study.

That conclusion, in a report compiled by the Union of Concerned Scientists, was reached using housing information from Zillow and a flood model from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that predicts 6 { feet of sea rise by the end of the century.

Previous studies of Zillow data showed that Florida has hundreds of thousands of homes worth billions of dollars with the risk of being inundated by 6 feet of sea rise.

This report, said one of its authors, Rachel Cleetus, talks about "a looming threat flying completely under the radar"—regular flooding.

"Well before homes go under water we'll start to see chronic inundation that affects home value," she said.

By the end of the century, Florida's number of at-risk homes is estimated to jump from 64,000 to a million. In 2100, the report said, about 1 in 10 homes in Florida will face flooding every other day. That puts the state at the top of the list nationwide for homes at risk.

The report emphasized the domino effect such repetitive floods could have on a community if nothing is done.

As floods grow more frequent and more intense, they'll start chipping away at the value of coastal homes, something initial research shows is happening. As waterlogged homes lose value, their owners may decide that it's easier to abandon them to foreclosure rather than pay a mortgage worth more than the house.

The authors of the report note that this kind of housing crisis would be more severe than any the U.S. has faced before. Unlike housing market crashes, where property values usually bounce back, such homes will be unusable (and unsellable) forever.

Federally backed mortgage buyer Freddie Mac wrote in a 2016 report that the resulting social and economic impacts of climate change are likely to be "greater in total than those experienced in the housing crisis and Great Recession."

The dark possibility hinted at in thee numbers also underlines the potential unsteady future of one of the main sources of revenue for the kinds of projects that save communities from the worst effects of flooding—a city's tax base.

That's especially visible in Miami Beach, one of South Florida's most vulnerable communities. By 2030, Miami Beach homes paying $17 million in property taxes would face regular flooding. By 2100, that figure would jump to more than $760 million.

Keeping a city dry as seas rise isn't cheap, but some Miami communities are investing in solutions. Miami Beach raised stormwater fees to fund $500 million in street-raising and pump installation projects. Miami's "Forever Bond" was highlighted in the report as a positive story of a community taxing itself to pay for such projects.

The report did suggest one solution that would significantly change the number of homes at risk. If the world keeps fossil fuel emissions low, like the standards called for in the Paris climate agreement, and ice melt is kept to a minimum, most sea-rise damage could be averted. The authors said that would save 93 percent of Florida's at-risk homes by the end of the century.

The report was compiled just before a new study from 80 Antarctic scientists showed that Arctic ice melting has tripled in a decade. The work suggests that the world has even less time to act to stall the worst effects of climate change.

"We have to radically cut carbon emissions," said Cleetus, author of the real estate risk study. "We have to prepare for the worst case scenario."

Grammys to increase nominees in top categories

NEW YORK (AP)—The Grammy Awards are extending the number of nominees in its top categories from five to eight.

The Recording Academy told its members in a letter released Tuesday that the nominee increase "will better reflect the large number of entries in these categories and allow voters greater flexibility when selecting this year's best recordings."

Album of the year, song of the year, record of the year and best new artist are the categories that will be affected. The change comes months after the Grammys were criticized for the lack of women nominees at this year's awards show.

For years, the organization has been called out for the lack of diversity when it comes to winners in the top four categories, where awards tend to go to acts in the pop, rock or country music genres, instead of hip-hop or R&B stars, even in years where Kanye West, Eminem and Mariah Carey were predicted to win.

Another change at the organization is with Neil Portnow, the president and CEO of The Recording Academy, who will step down next year. Portnow, who has led the academy since 2002, was criticized at this year's Grammys when he said women need to "step up" when asked about the lack of female winners backstage. Only two female performers won awards during the live telecast.

Bruno Mars won album, song and record of the year at this year's show, while Alessia Cara was named best new artist.

Voting for the 2019 Grammys will take place in the fall and will include songs and albums released between Oct. 1, 2017 and Sept. 30, 2018.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

A military scholar has received a $100,000 prize

NEW YORK (AP)—A specialist in German military history and the two world wars has received a $100,000 prize. Dennis Showalter is this year's winner of the Pritzker Literature Award for lifetime achievement. The award was announced Tuesday by the Chicago-based Pritzker Military Museum & Library. Showalter's books include "Tannenberg: Clash of Empires 1914," "Frederick the Great: A Military History" and "Instrument of War: The German Army 1914-18." He was praised by the Pritzker museum and library for his "long and brilliant" scholarly career. Previous winners of the Pritzker award include David Hackett Fischer and Tim O'Brien.

Newspaper gives $5K of Pulitzer Prize money to benefit child

CINCINNATI (AP)—The Cincinnati Enquirer is donating $5,000 of its 2018 Pulitzer Prize for local reporting to benefit a little girl featured in the newspaper's winning report on heroin. The Enquirer reports the money will be the first deposit in a fund to assist Elliana Russ. The then-8-month-old child and her mother, Stephanie Gaffney, were featured in the newspaper's "Seven Days of Heroin" report last September. Twenty-eight-year-old Gaffney died of an overdose of a fentanyl combination 10 days after speaking with the newspaper in July for the story. Enquirer Editor Beryl Love said the news organization thought it "only right" to use a portion of its $15,000 prize money to help her daughter. A Hamilton County judge later granted custody of Elliana to Gaffney's mother and her husband.

Wave of pro-Trump books coming in summer and fall

NEW YORK (AP)—In a year dominated by such anti-Trump best-sellers as "Fire and Fury" and "A Higher Loyalty," a conservative counter-wave is growing. Over the next few months, at least half a dozen pro-Trump and/or anti-Russian investigation books are scheduled. They range from insider accounts by former White House officials Sean Spicer and Anthony Scaramucci, both of whom have defended President Donald Trump despite their tumultuous times in Washington, to books from such Fox News regulars as Jeanine Pirro, Alan Dershowitz and former Rep. Jason Chaffetz. Several of the upcoming releases serve as a publishing arm to the Trump-led attack against special counsel Robert Mueller's probe into his campaign's Russia ties.

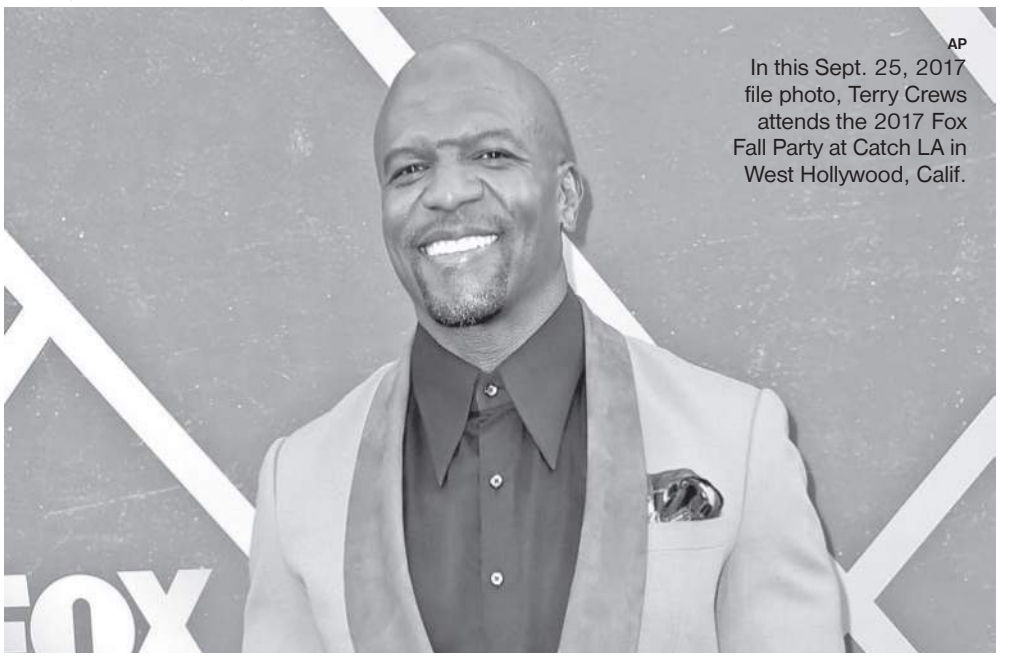
Michael Ian Black is writing a book on masculinity

NEW YORK (AP)—Michael Ian Black's next book will have some advice for his fellow men. The multitalented comedian and writer's "A Better Man" is scheduled to come out in the fall of 2019, Algonquin Books told The Associated Press on Tuesday. The book will be an open letter to his teenage son that calls for "rethinking masculinity" and how to love and be loved. Black's credits range from "The Jim Gaffigan Show" to such books as the memoir "You're Not Doing It Right." He is also the host of two podcasts, "How to Be Amazing" and "Obscure."

Knight fever: Bee Gees star becomes Sir Barry Gibb at palace

LONDON (AP)—Bee Gee Barry Gibb has received a knighthood at Buckingham Palace, and says he hopes his late brothers Robin and Maurice are proud of him. Gibb is the last surviving member of the fraternal trio whose falsetto harmonies and disco beats powered huge 1970s hits including "How Deep is Your Love," "Stayin' Alive" and "Tragedy." Maurice died in 2003 and his twin Robin in 2012. After being knighted at the palace by Prince Charles on Tuesday, the 71-year-old songwriter said: "If it was not for my brothers, I would not be here." Gibb, who can now call himself Sir Barry, said the honor was "a bit surreal." He said "it is a high award that your culture can give you and that is something I am enormously proud of."

Terry Crews says 'Expendables' producer threatened 'trouble'



AP
In this Sept. 25, 2017 file photo, Terry Crews attends the 2017 Fox Fall Party at Catch LA in West Hollywood, Calif.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Terry Crews says a film producer said he could only return to the "Expendables" franchise if he dropped his sexual assault lawsuit against a Hollywood agent. The actor said it was an example of how "abusers protect abusers."

Crews made the allegation Tuesday at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the Sexual Assault Survivor Bill of Rights, which establishes rights for survivors of sexual assault.

Crews, who last year accused William Morris Endeavor talent agent Adam Venit of groping him at a party, was asked if there had been any retaliation for making the sexual assault allegation.

He said "Expendables" producer Avi Lerner asked that the actor drop his case in order to appear in the fourth installment of the action film and warned of "troubles" if it wasn't dropped. Crews has been in each of the previous films.

"Abusers protect abusers—and this is one thing I had to decide, whether I was going to draw the line on. Am I going to be a part of this or am I gonna take a stand, and there are projects I had to turn down," he said.

An email seeking comment from Lerner's Millennium Films was not immediately returned Tuesday afternoon.

Millennium Films is being sued for sexual harassment and gender discrimination by a former employee.

The Los Angeles County district attorney's office decided in March not to file charges against Venit, determining the allegations were not a felony. Crews has also filed a lawsuit against Venit.

Divorced dad vows to boycott any events that include his ex

DEAR ABBY: My parents went through a bitter divorce five years ago and have had little to no contact since then. During the process of the divorce, their communication was through my siblings and me, which took a toll on us. However, despite the turmoil of the divorce, we are still close to both of them.

I'm a medical student who will be graduating next year. I recently brought up the idea of having a graduation party, but my father says he refuses to come if Mom or anyone from her side of the family will be there. This led to a discussion about future weddings and events that will most likely happen soon.

My siblings and I are in our mid- to late-20s, and Dad insists that he won't attend any future events that Mom will attend, even if it's his own child's wedding. It was extremely difficult to hear.

My siblings and I can't imagine him boycotting something just because he doesn't want to be in the presence of our mother. We all think he's overreacting and needs to get over the past. Must we get over the fact that he doesn't want to be around our mother and allow him to skip these important days?

CHILD OF DIVORCE IN MICHIGAN

DEAR CHILD: Your father may be angry, but he is also being selfish and childish. By telling you what he did, he's attempting to manipulate you into choosing between him and your mother.

By asking me whether you should "allow" him to skip these important milestones, you appear to be under the impression that you can somehow control your father. You CANNOT control the actions of another adult. You can, however, control the way you react to his behavior.

You and your siblings should not allow yourselves to be manipulated. "Remind" your father that if he follows through with his threat, he will be missed, and the only person he'll be hurting is himself.

DEAR ABBY: My best friend from college recently had a baby. I had planned a trip to visit her, and during my visit, she said, we would visit the local pool. A week before I was set to leave, she notified me that I would have to wear a T-shirt over my bathing suit at all times because my "fit body" would make her neighbors who have "mom bodies" uncomfortable, and she doesn't want to upset them.

I was shocked and offended for women of all sizes. I responded that I would never be uncomfortable with anyone's mom body or ask them to cover up, and I won't wear a T-shirt. My bathing suit is not skimpy and would not be considered revealing by any standards. She responded that if I have a problem with it, I should just not come. Help!

SHOCKED AND OFFENDED

DEAR SHOCKED AND OFFENDED: Be neither shocked nor offended. I agree that no one should have to cover their bodies. I suspect your best friend from college is not happy with HER post-baby body right now and wants to avoid comparisons. Tell her you understand, and try to reschedule a visit during ski season.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

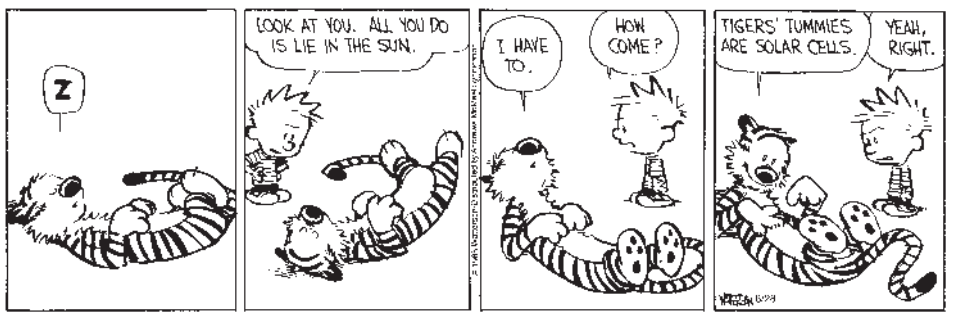
By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

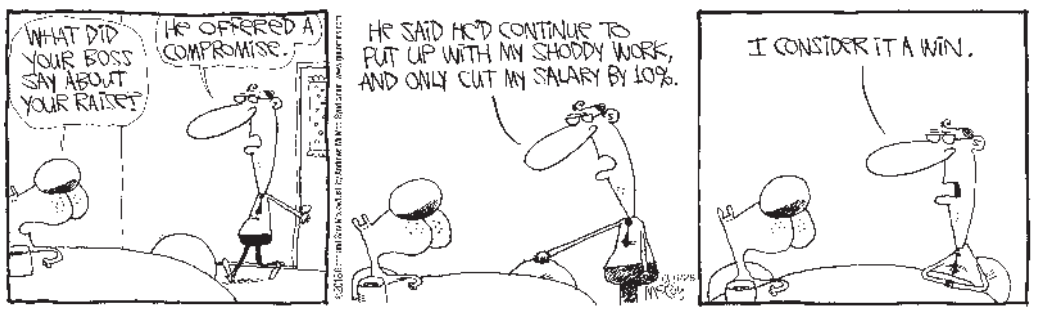
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

SO, YOU WANT ME TO JUST PULL YOU AWAY?
IT'S THE ONLY WAY, SON.
YANK ME BACK. I'M IN A SERIOUS SOLITAIRE VORTEX.
NOOO! I HAVE ALL FOUR ACES!
I'M NOT COMFORTABLE WITH THIS.
GIMME THE TOUGH LOVE, CLAYTON! THAT'S THE APP TALKING!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


WHAT DID YOUR BOSS SAY ABOUT YOUR RAISE?
HE OFFERED A COMPROMISE.
HE SAID HE'D CONTINUE TO PUT UP WITH MY SHODDY WORK, AND ONLY CUT MY SALARY BY 10%.
I CONSIDER IT A WIN.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

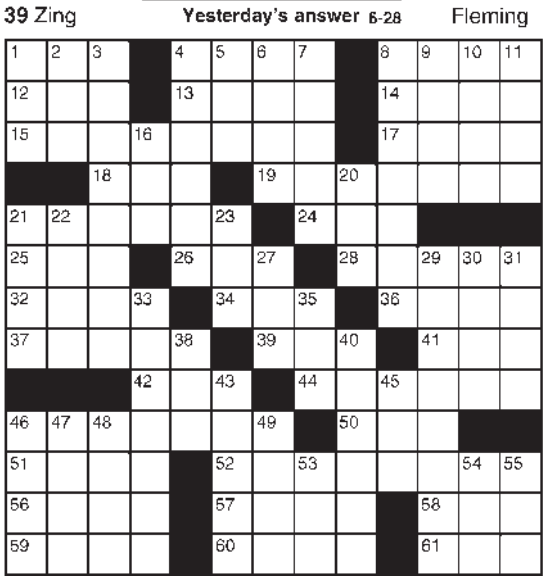
ACROSS
1 — -la-la
4 Red-tag event
8 Pealed
12 Entanglement
13 Goatee's spot
14 Country singer Jackson
15 Adams and Van Buren
17 Lady of Spain
18 Neither mate
19 IRS examiner
21 Clan-related
24 Historic time
25 Plopped down
26 Vagrant
28 Trite
32 N. Mex. neighbor
34 Understood
36 Online auction site
37 Lubricate anew
39 Zing
41 Luau instrument
42 Royal insomnia cause
44 Radio components
46 Violent storm
50 — -di-dah
51 Screenwriter James
52 Cabbage variety
56 Afrikaner
57 Wry Bombeck
58 Fluffy neckpiece
59 Bygone fliers
60 Entryway
61 Hostel

DOWN
1 Former Delta rival
2 Civil War soldier
3 From the start (Lat.)
4 Ornamental beetle
5 Sashimi fish
6 Oscar-winner Kedrova
7 Follow
8 Give off, as heat
9 Oodles
10 iPod variety
11 Growl
16 Sailor
20 Hosp. workers
21 Despot
22 Scarce
23 Schlep
27 Clear the deck?
29 Middle Eastern capital
30 Huron, for one
31 Spuds' buds
33 Sleeping bag closers
35 Slugger Williams
38 Shelter
40 Column
43 Queried
45 Crew tool
46 Bar bills
47 Swelled heads
48 Bump into
49 Matador's foe
53 Med. plan option
54 "— voyage!"
55 Author Fleming

Solution time: 24 mins.

S	K	I		F	O	A	M		S	O	A	R	
H		M		E	A	S	E		O	B	O	E	
A	L	A		F	R	I	M	A	R	I	L	Y	
M	O	X	I	E			E	B	B				
			C	A	P	S		C	E	D	E	D	
M		G	H	T	I	L	Y		T	E	T	E	
O	N	A		S	I	E	E	D		B	A	N	
A	C	I	D		H	E	A	R	T	I	L	Y	
T	A	L	E	S		T	R	Y	A				
			C	O	C			E	B	E	R	T	
U	N	C	A	N	N	I	.	Y		I	O	O	
Z	A	N	Y		F	I	F	F		B	O	O	
I	N	N	S		S	K	I	D		E	M	T	

Yesterday's answer 6-28



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kellie Pickler, 32; John Cusack, 52; Kathy Bates, 70; Mel Brooks, 92.

Happy Birthday: You're in a better position than you realize. Face limitations head-on and calculate the best way to turn negative situations into positives. Compassion and understanding will help you convince others to support your actions and turn this year into one of progress instead of repetition. Express your desires and be willing to compromise in order to get what you want. Your numbers are 2, 9, 14, 23, 33, 45, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Walk away from conflict. Concentrate on personal goals and how best to channel your energy to blow off steam. Do your own thing, live within your means and do whatever it takes to help yourself. Change begins within. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Get moving, and don't stop until you reach your destination. Short trips, meetings and sorting out differences you have with a colleague, friend or relative are favored. Don't make changes without research, preparation and the approval of those affected by your decision. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Do what works best for you, and stop worrying about what others think. Someone who tries to intervene probably has ulterior motives. Act on your own behalf, and don't stop until you are happy with the results you get. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Don't settle for less when you know you can have so much more. Set the parameters to suit your needs, and put your skills to good use. What you accomplish will be recognized and appreciated by onlookers. Rewards are apparent. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Keep a close watch on the way others handle situations that can affect you. Getting your responsibilities out of the way before someone complains is encouraged. Don't celebrate a promise before it's honored. Know your limitations and your boundaries. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Don't disregard what others have done. By recognizing and giving credit to those who have worked hard, you will win support and the help you need to accomplish goals that require assistance. Network, collaborate and develop partnerships. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Stick to the people you know and trust. Someone close to you will give you a hard time. Know when to walk away; you'll avoid a dispute that would lead to additional responsibilities. Concentrate on personal growth, not changing others. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* You've got plenty to work with if you stay focused on what you are trying to accomplish. Use your intuitive intelligence to help you make the best choice. Don't let a personal relationship interfere with your ability to get ahead professionally. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* How you handle others will make a difference in how much you accomplish. Work with, the majority, and when the time is right, you'll stand a better chance of implementing your plans. Personal growth and improvement are encouraged. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* A window of opportunity is apparent. Take on more responsibilities and give your best effort when working alongside others. You will be rewarded in an unusual and profitable manner. Make it your mission to work hard and play hard. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Look at the possibilities, and be willing to work with someone you love and respect in order to turn your plans into a reality. Love and romance should be priorities. Encourage a solid and long-lasting union. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Explore the possibilities. Trying something new and different or delving into the unknown or unfamiliar will spark your imagination and help you bring about change that you find mentally stimulating. Resurrect an old idea and give it a new twist. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are spontaneous, questioning and insightful. You are determined and opportunistic.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		9			1			
		7			8			
				2			3	1
9	1		4		3			
		5				1		
			2		6		5	8
6	8			7				
			5			4		
			6			3		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	8	5	7	3	1	4	9	6
7	6	9	5	8	4	1	3	2
1	4	3	9	6	2	7	8	5
6	7	2	3	1	5	8	4	9
5	3	1	4	9	8	6	2	7
8	9	4	2	7	6	5	1	3
4	5	6	8	2	9	3	7	1
9	1	7	6	4	3	2	5	8
3	2	8	1	5	7	9	6	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/27

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

DRY SHAMPOO — **Solution: 7 letters**

T	S	E	S	N	A	E	L	C	T	N	I	T	D	O
N	H	C	R	E	F	R	E	S	H	F	N	M	N	I
E	I	G	A	E	M	U	L	O	V	E	(T)	O	A	L
C	N	N	I	L	S	T	A	R	C	H	(U)	U	R	S
U	E	T	F	E	P	X	H	S	U	R	(B)	S	T	E
L	K	N	B	U	W	E	R	Y	I	E	(E)	S	S	N
S	Y	A	R	P	S	T	B	S	D	O	V	E	S	O
N	F	T	O	H	R	I	H	R	E	N	M	I	S	T
A	O	S	S	S	F	E	O	G	A	V	E	E	O	P
R	R	N	B	O	T	S	F	N	I	N	A	R	O	U
T	M	I	A	S	T	G	R	I	P	L	D	W	T	R
Y	U	M	A	O	H	S	A	W	N	U	D	S	H	I
A	L	P	O	H	L	O	S	O	R	E	A	R	E	F
L	A	R	E	N	I	M	K	E	R	A	T	I	N	Y
C	O	S	M	E	T	I	C	H	A	R	C	O	A	L

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Absorb, Aerosol, Brands, Brush, Charcoal, Clay, Cleanse, Cosmetic, Dove, Foam, Formula, Grip, Hair, Infusion, Instant, Keratin, Lightweight, Mineral, Mist, Mousse, Nourish, Oils, Paste, Powder, Purify, Refine, Refresh, Roots, Scalp, Scent, Shine, Soak, Soothe, Spray, Starch, Strand, Texture, Tint, Tones, Translucent, Trendy, Tube, Unwash, Volume, Waves

Yesterday's Answer: Windows

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Nadal aims to end Wimbledon misfortunes

LONDON—Rafael Nadal remains the king of clay, but the world number one arrives at Wimbledon harboring only slender hopes of winning the tournament for the first time since 2010.

Nadal extended his incredible record on the red dirt of Roland Garros earlier this month as he crushed Dominic Thiem to win his 11th French Open title.

The Spaniard has enjoyed another golden period on his favored clay this year, claiming the Monte Carlo, Barcelona and Rome titles as well as his latest triumph in Paris.

That dominant streak extended Nadal's impressive renaissance after two years of injury woe.

He has won three of the last five Grand Slams, taking the French Open two years in a row and lifting the US Open trophy in 2017.

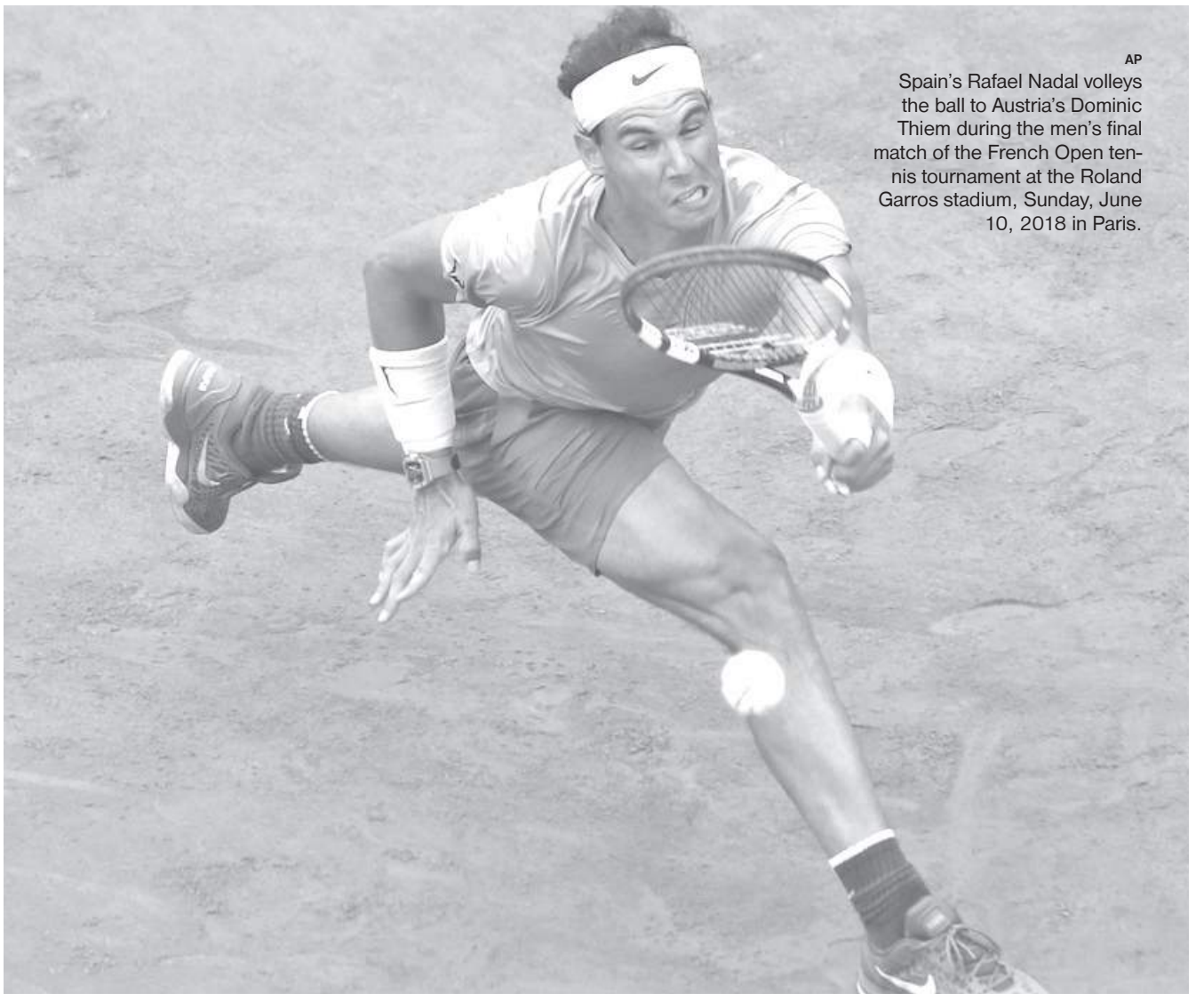
But, while the 32-year-old's superiority on clay is unquestioned, Nadal has found it far harder to transfer that dominance to the All England Club's lawns in the latter stages of his career.

The 17-time Grand Slam champion won the most recent of his two Wimbledon titles eight years ago and hasn't been past the last 16 since 2011.

Nadal has admitted in the past that he finds it hard to make the transition from clay to grass.

The low bounce on grass threatens to aggravate the knee injuries that have plagued him for years.

With that in mind, Nadal decided to withdraw from last week's Wimbledon warm-up at Queen's Club to rest his aching body after the gruelling clay campaign.



AP

Spain's Rafael Nadal volleys the ball to Austria's Dominic Thiem during the men's final match of the French Open tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium, Sunday, June 10, 2018 in Paris.

"I had a very intense campaign on clay and my body needed rest because drastic changes are not good," Nadal said.

"I had to spend time adapting physically and in my tennis to the surface.

"I will certainly arrive at Wimbledon with less preparation, but I'm going with confidence high because I played very well through the whole clay-court season."

Nadal has been preparing for Wimbledon by training for the past week on the grass courts of the Mallorca Open near his home in Manacor.

During that training block he suffered a scare after appearing to twist his ankle.

But Nadal, who hasn't played a competitive match since the French Open, appeared to recover quickly and will take part in exhibition matches near London this week in a bid to hone his grass game.

Even so, his absence from Queen's and the subsequent lack of grass game-time raises doubts about his chances of a third title at Wimbledon, which starts its 150th edition on Monday.

Nadal did receive a boost on Sunday when he regained top spot in the ATP rankings from Roger Federer after his old rival's surprise defeat against Borna Coric in the Halle final.

Between them, Federer and Nadal have won the last six major titles, the old rivals sharing them out with three each.

But it is Federer who heads to London as the reigning Wimbledon champion, with the Swiss legend favoured to win the tournament for the ninth time after resting during the clay season.

Although Nadal reached five successive Wimbledon finals from 2006 to 2011— discounting his 2009 absence due to injury—the tournament has become a house of horrors for him lately.

His tale of woe started in 2012 with a stunning loss to world number 100 Lukas Rosol.

There was worse to come for Nadal in 2013 when unheralded Belgian Steve Darcis dumped him out and a year later Nick Kyrgios, ranked 144, inflicted yet more misery on the Spaniard.

Severino earns 12th win, Yankees beat Phillies

PHILADELPHIA (AP)— Luis Severino became the majors' first 12-game winner, Aaron Hicks and Didi Gregorius homered and the New York Yankees beat the Philadelphia Phillies 6-0 Tuesday night.

Severino (12-2) struck out nine in seven dominant innings, lowering his ERA to 2.10. The ace has allowed three runs or less in 16 of 17 starts.

Jake Arrieta (5-6) had another rough outing for Philadelphia, which had won four consecutive series before losing two straight to the Yankees. Arrieta gave up six runs—three earned—and nine hits in five innings.

Arrieta was 0-4 with a 6.66 ERA in five starts in June after posting a 0.90 ERA in five starts last month.

White Sox 8, Twins 4

In Chicago, Yolmer Sanchez matched a career high with four RBI, Avisail Garcia hit his first homer since returning from the disabled list last week and Chicago came back to beat Minnesota.

Reynaldo Lopez (3-5) lasted 6 1/3 innings for the win in a contest that began after a delay of 1 hour, 48 minutes because of heavy rain.

Minnesota's Lance Lynn (5-6) seemed to be cruising with a 4-2 lead in a seventh straight solid start, but slipped on the wet grass while fielding Matt Davidson's soft grounder leading off the bottom of sixth. Leury Garcia and Kevan Smith followed with singles to load the bases, prompting manager Paul Molitor to bring in reliever Ryan Pressly.

Rays 1, Nationals 0

In St. Petersburg, Nathan Eovaldi took a no-hitter into the sixth inning before an unusual combination of relievers in the ninth completed a three-hitter as the Rays beat Max Scherzer and the Nationals.

Eovaldi (2-3) lost his no-hit bid when Bryce Harper hit an opposite-field double off the left-field wall with two outs in the sixth.

Cardinals 11, Indians 2

In St. Louis, Matt Carpenter homered twice, matched a career best with five hits and helped chase Corey Kluber in the shortest start of the right-hander's career. Carpenter scored a career-best five runs and also drove in three.

Kluber (11-4) allowed six runs in 1 2/3 innings and has lost two of his past three decisions.

Red Sox 9, Angels 1

In Boston, Mookie Betts homered on John Lamb's first pitch of the game, and J.D. Martinez hit his major league-leading 24th home run to back David Price's six strong innings.

Jackie Bradley Jr. had four RBI and three hits, including a home run.

Cubs 9, Dodgers 4

In Los Angeles, Javier Baez hit two home runs, including a grand slam, Jon Lester won his sixth consecutive start and Chicago ended a five-game losing streak.

Baez homered in consecutive innings, giving him 16 on the season, and finished with four hits.

Brewers 5, Royals 1

In Milwaukee, Freddy Peralta pitched one-hit ball over seven scoreless innings, Jesus Aguilar hit one of Milwaukee's three homers and the Brewers beat the Royals.

Peralta (3-0) allowed a leadoff double in the third to Adalberto Mondesi and also allowed a walk in the second.

Padres 3, Rangers 2

In Arlington, Wil Myers and Hunter Renfroe hit run-scoring doubles in San Diego's three-run eighth inning, helping the Padres rally for a win over the Rangers.

Shin-Soo Choo singled with two outs in the ninth to extend his major league-leading streak of reaching base to 39 games.

Athletics 9, Tigers 7

In Detroit, Jed Lowrie drove in the tiebreaking run in the top of the ninth inning for a second straight game, and the Athletics rallied from six runs down to hand the Tigers their seventh straight loss.

Detroit led 6-0 after three innings, but Oakland came back to tie it at 7-all in the seventh.

Astros 7, Blue Jays 0

In Houston, Charlie Morton struck out 13 in seven stellar innings, Jake Marisnick hit a three-run homer in the eighth after preserving the shutout with a big defensive play in the sixth.

Morton (10-1) scattered four hits and walked two for his third straight win.

Mariners 3, Orioles 2

In Baltimore, Kyle Seager homered and hit a pivotal two-run single in the eighth inning to back a fine pitching performance by James Paxton and help the Mariners beat the Orioles.

Paxton (7-2) struck out 10 over seven innings, allowing two runs and six hits.

Mets 4, Pirates 3

In New York, Wilmer Flores singled home the winning run in the 10th inning and the Mets stopped their seven-game losing streak, beating the Pirates hours after general manager Sandy Alderson stepped down because his cancer has returned.

Michael Conforto hit a tying homer and Flores had three RBI for the Mets (32-45).

Reds 5, Braves 3

In Atlanta, Matt Harvey pitched six-hit ball into the seventh inning, earning back-to-back wins for the first time this season and leading the Reds to a victory over the Braves.

Jesse Winker had three hits and two RBI for last-place Cincinnati, which has won eight of nine.

Diamondbacks 5, Marlins 3

In Miami, John Ryan Murphy drove in three runs to help the Diamondbacks to a victory over the Marlins.

Zack Godley (9-5) pitched five innings and allowed two runs and six hits for the Diamondbacks.

Giants 3, Rockies 2

In San Francisco, Gorkys Hernandez drew a go-ahead, bases-loaded walk in the eighth inning after his earlier solo home run, and San Francisco beat Colorado.

Tom Murphy doubled to start the ninth for the Rockies on a hit that sliding Hernandez couldn't secure in center field, and the ball kicked back toward the infield.

Magic: I'll step down if I don't land free agents

AP
Los Angeles Lakers president of basketball operations, Earvin "Magic" Johnson, center, poses with Moritz Wagner, left, and Sviatoslav Mykhailiuk during a press conference to introduce the Lakers draft picks, in El Segundo, Calif., Tuesday, June 26, 2018.

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—Magic Johnson is betting his job on his free-agent recruiting skills for the Los Angeles Lakers.

Johnson declared Monday that he will step down as the Lakers' president of basketball operations if he can't persuade an elite free agent to sign with the 16-time NBA champions within the next two summers.

"Next summer, if nobody comes and I'm still sitting here like this, then it's a failure," Johnson said after a news conference to introduce draft picks Moe Wagner and Svi Mykhailiuk.

Johnson was put in charge of the Lakers' front office by owner Jeanie Buss in February 2017, and the former superstar point guard immediately announced his plans to revive the struggling franchise by enticing the game's best players to join as free agents.

With Paul George and potentially LeBron James headlining the market this summer, Johnson is leading the Lakers' efforts to land both players this weekend. If they sign elsewhere, Johnson and the Lakers will pursue the large crop of 2019 free agents.

And if he strikes out with every big name, Johnson said he will quit.

"Like I told you when I took the job, it's going to be a two-summer thing for the Lakers," Johnson said. "This summer, and next summer, and that's it. And if I can't deliver, I'm going to step down myself. She won't have to fire me. I'll step away from it. Because then, I can't do this job. But so far, so good."

Although the Lakers are mired in the worst five-year stretch in franchise history and haven't made the playoffs since 2013, Johnson and general manager Rob Pelinka have been successful in achieving their initial goals since they took over 16 months ago.

They have solidified a decent core of talented young players—Brandon Ingram, Lonzo Ball, Kyle Kuzma and Josh Hart—to provide their potential free-agent signees with support. They have made several slick trades and personnel moves to clear enough salary cap room to offer two mammoth free-agent contracts this summer.

Now comes the tough part: Persuading George or James or other big names to move to Hollywood. Johnson said he has no idea whether the Lakers' pitch will be well-received, but he also feels confident in his task.

"I'm Magic Johnson," he said with his ubiquitous smile. "You know how many finals I've been in? So you think I'm worried about this? I played against Larry Bird in the Finals. I played in nine Finals."

Johnson is the second straight basketball decision-maker for the Lakers to create a self-imposed deadline for success.

In 2014, co-owner Jim Buss told the Los Angeles Times that the Lakers had to be a contender within three to four years, or "I will step down, because that means I have failed."

The Lakers badly missed that deadline, and Buss' sister fired him and general manager Mitch Kupchak in February 2017.

Johnson and Pelinka are spending this week honing and fine-tuning their free-agent pitches. They'll show their plans to Jeanie Buss later in the week, along with numerous contingency plans for the short-term and long-term future.

"If we can sign somebody this summer, we'll do that," Johnson said. "If it doesn't happen, we've got to turn to next summer

Woods eyes quick fix in next tournament

BETHESDA—After some frustrating performances on the greens of late, Tiger Woods had an extra putter in his bag Tuesday for a nine-hole practice round. Woods said he has been experimenting with it over the past week.

The decision on whether to actually use it—and replace the Scotty Cameron model he's used to win 13 of his major championships and whenever he's competed in the past two years—won't come until the first round of the Quicken Loans National on Thursday.

"I'm trying something out," Woods said during the practice round at TPC Potomac. "The way I've been putting, I wanted to look for a change. That's all it is. It rolls good. You never know."

The putter has more the look of a mallet than the traditional blade putter Woods has used for the bulk of his career. It is a TaylorMade Ardmore 3, and Woods has an endorsement deal to play the company's clubs—although he is not required to use the putter.

"It's at my discretion," he said. "If I find something that helps me play better, so be it. If it doesn't then it's not going in the bag."

When Woods was under contract to play Nike's clubs, he only switched to a Nike-branded putter in 2010. There were a few times he used a mallet-type Nike putter. When the company got out of the golf club part of the business, he went back to the Scotty Cameron model.

The TaylorMade is one of several the company sent him to test.

"It has a little more swing than my putter does," he said. "It feels good."

In Woods' most recent tournaments—the Memorial, where he tied for 23rd, and the U.S. Open, where he missed the cut—poor putting cost him. Woods was continually frustrated on the greens. For the year, he ranks 89th on the PGA Tour in strokes gained putting.

LeBron's home loyalty could push him to re-sign with Cavs

LeBron James sprung to his feet and screamed along with thousands of delirious Cleveland fans.

When Indians outfielder Rajai Davis connected off Chicago Cubs reliever Aroldis Chapman for a tying home run in the eighth inning of Game 7 of the 2016 World Series, James came unglued and reacted the way he might after a monstrous dunk or back-breaking 3-pointer in the NBA Finals.

And while his fanatical response said a lot about James and his allegiance to the Indians, so did the tight, black T-shirt he wore on that unseasonably warm November night.

It said: "Cleveland Or Nowhere."

As the sports world waits to see where the three-time champion intends to play next season and beyond, there remains the real possibility that James could choose to stay in Cleveland, his hoops home for 11 of the past 15 years and where this Northeast Ohio son shares a unique and profound connection with fans who have followed him since his teens.

James has other options: Los Angeles (salary-cap space for another star, Magic Johnson in charge), Houston (a chance to play on a super team with MVP James Harden), Philadelphia (young stars Ben Simmons and Joel Embiid), and maybe more.

But, as has always been the case for James, home will pull at his heart.

For the longest time, the perception was that once James ended Cleveland's 52-year title drought in 2016, he would leave again as soon as he could. That doesn't seem to be a slam dunk any longer.

By Friday, James is expected to make his first move and likely decline a $35.6 million contract option for next season with the Cavs, who are hoping their past loyalties to the 33-year-old and his own sentimental attachments -- family, legacy -- will keep him in Cleveland.

Unlike his free-agency forays in 2010 and 2014, James will not meet with prospective teams. He's letting agent Rich Paul and his other representatives handle the business side of things as he vacations with family and makes up his mind.

Months ago, James' connection with the Cavs seemed broken, hopeless. Last summer's shocking trade of All-Star Kyrie Irving, the team's failed attempt to integrate guard Isaiah Thomas, a lack of playmakers, assorted injuries and coach Tyronn Lue's medical issues contributed to James appearing ready to pull up stakes again and pursue championships elsewhere.

But a funny thing happened on the way to the NBA Finals.

James was boosted by general manager Koby Altman's drastic-and-dramatic roster overhaul at the trading deadline, and despite a lack of cohesion and Vegas odds makers labeling the Cavs as underdogs, Cleveland advanced to a fourth straight summer showdown with Golden State, surviving two Game 7s and sweeping the top-seeded Toronto Raptors along the way.

Of course, James did all the heavy lifting. He played in all 82 regular-season games and had perhaps his best postseason, averaging 34 points, 9.1 rebounds and 9.0 assists while making a pair of buzzer-beating shots and doing all he could in a Finals sweep that could have been much different if Cleveland had not lost Game 1 in overtime.

"He gave his heart and soul, die-hard energy, commitment to this team, to this franchise, to the city, to Northeast Ohio," Altman said last week after the Cavs drafted Alabama guard Collin Sexton, who quickly raised some eyebrows by choosing to wear No. 2, Irving's number for six seasons with Cleveland. "It was an historical year and probably one of the best postseason runs of all time. We're very, very fortunate to have him here and what he gave to this franchise this year was nothing short of remarkable.

"We don't take that for granted at all."

And it's why the Cavs haven't surrendered from the fight to keep him.

Camacho, Talavera deliver in Monday Night League

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saolak Camacho's Diana Camacho and Pin Busters' Robert Talavera did it again, topping the high average contest in the 27th Philippine Bowling Association-Budweiser Monday Night League.

Talavera and Camacho, who earned the similar award in the Tuesday Night Bowling League, registered an average of 186.82 and 169.33 in 16 weeks of competition in the PBA-organized event. Talavera bested 44 other bowlers in the high average category, while Camacho prevailed against 13 others.

Camacho also won in the high scratch series with his 566 beating the 536, 522, 486, and 453 of Janice Camacho, Wrene May Alegre, Gloria Pagarao, and Brenda Rideb, respectively.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Players of Team Unity pose with their third place trophy during the awards ceremony for the 27th Philippine Bowling Association-Budweiser Monday Night League held last week at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Diana's victory foiled Alegre's sweep, as the Team Unity member topped the scratch game (221), handicap game (275) and handicap series (664).

In the scratch game, Alegre downed Janice (210) and Diana (207) and the same thing happened in the handicap game with Janice making only 242 and Diana registering 235. In the handicap series, Alegre finished ahead of Diana (653) and Pagarao (642).

With her victories in three categories and average of 154.70 (from 139) Alegre was named Most Improved Player, while J's Restaurant's Joven Abris took the same honors in the men's division. Abris also had an average of 139 at the start of the tournament and finished with 150.23 to beat Bernard Paraiso and Jimmy De Guzman. Alegre, on the other hand, edged Aiko Riungel and Pagarao.

MESSI

From Page 28

post off a free kick, and Banega controlled the game in the first half. Rojo finished it off in the second by cushioning a volley with his right foot into the bottom corner and ensuring Messi's quest for a first World Cup title continued.

Argentina will play France in the last 16 in Kazan on Saturday. If Argentines win and Portugal beats Uruguay on Saturday, Messi would face Cristiano Ronaldo in the quarterfinals.

Without that late goal from Rojo, the 31-year-old Messi might have retired from international soccer for a second time—and for good this time.

Instead, it was Messi who was at the center of the celebrations. His teammates formed a circle around him while striker Gonzalo Higuain cried nearby. Messi then clenched his fist as he turned toward the Argentina fans.

"He's above everybody else," Argentina coach Jorge Sampaoli said. "The most important thing for Leo is his human side. He cries. He suffers. He's happy when Argentina wins. I know him.

"Many people say Leo does not enjoy playing for Argentina, but I do not agree. He enjoys and suffers like all the other players and that makes him even bigger."

Before Rojo's goal, Nigeria had been only a few minutes from qualifying for the last 16 for the fourth time.

Javier Mascherano gave away a penalty with a pull on Leon Balogun at a 49th-minute corner. Victor Moses converted—and marked the goal with a somersault—to put Nigeria back in control of the race for second place in the group.

Argentina was facing finishing a World Cup without a win for the first time since 1934, but instead the team is headed to the knockout stage.

"This is Messi," Nigeria coach Gernot Rohr said with a shrug.

Croatia 2, Iceland 1

Croatia ended Iceland's chances at the World Cup and helped out Argentina at the same time.

Ivan Perisic capitalized on a defensive error to score a 90th-minute winner Tuesday, giving Croatia a win over Iceland and first place in Group.

Iceland could have finished second in the group with a victory because Argentina beat Nigeria 2-1 at the same time. Instead, the Croats will face Denmark on Sunday in Nizhny Novgorod and Argentina will take on France on Saturday in Kazan.

Fielding a side filled with reserves after already being assured of a spot in the round of 16, Croatia started to take control of the match in the second half.

Milan Badelj, moments after hitting the bar, scored the opening goal in the 53rd minute. He sprinted into the area and sent a bouncing shot past goalkeeper Hannes Halldorsson.

Peru 2, Australia 0

Back at the World Cup for the first time since 1982, Peru isn't leaving Russia empty handed.

The Peruvians failed to score a goal in their opening two matches, but the team finally gave its fans a reason to celebrate when it ended Australia's hopes of advancing to the knockout round with a victory.

The Australians had to beat Peru and hope Denmark lost to France in the other Group C match, but neither result occurred. France and Denmark drew 0-0 in Moscow.

Andre Carrillo's 18th-minute goal—a half-volley from inside the area—was Peru's first in a World Cup since its last appearance 36 years ago. Peru hadn't won a World Cup match since defeating Iran in 1978.

France 0, Denmark 0

A game no team needed to win became the game no fan would want to watch.

France and Denmark produced the World Cup's first draw at the 37th attempt amid boos and whistles from fans

The slow-paced game was out of step with a vibrant tournament. But it advanced both teams to the round of 16 unbeaten, with the bonus of no players suspended and no serious injuries. France will now play Argentina, and Denmark faces Croatia.

The draw would always have ensured that outcome, and became inevitable in the second half. Events elsewhere in Group C made this game all but irrelevant.

Peru beat Australia, meaning the Danes would have advanced even if they lost to France before 78,011 at the World Cup's signature Luzhniki Stadium.

Brazil, Germany try to salvage campaign

Two of the best teams in international soccer go into their final group matches in danger of being bounced from the World Cup.

Germany and Brazil, both early favorites for the title, struggled through their opening two matches. The teams have a combined nine World Cup titles, Germany is the defending champion and Brazil is still trying to redeem itself from a humiliating 7-1 loss in the 2014 semifinals, in which it was the host nation.

Germany was shocked in its opening match in Russia by losing to Mexico, and the squad needed a goal in stoppage time from Toni Kross to pull out a 2-1 victory over Sweden. To avoid elimination in the first round of the World Cup for the first time since 1938, Germany needs a strong showing on Wednesday against South Korea in a wide-open Group F finale at Kazan Arena.

Germany coach Joachim Loew has been blasted at home for conservative roster choices. So Loew made four changes against Sweden, including dropping playmaker Mesut Ozil from the starting lineup. The changes made for a balanced team that was relieved to pull out the win against Sweden.

South Korea's chances to advance are slim, and captain Ki Sung-yueng won't play because of a left calf injury. If South Korea beats the four-time world champions, and Sweden loses to Mexico, the squad could make it to the round of 16.

Brazil, meanwhile, is trying to regain some swagger. The five-time champions head into their final group match against Serbia at Spartak Stadium in Moscow needing only a draw to advance.

But after a 1-1 draw against Switzerland, Brazil needed two injury-time goals to pull out a 2-0 victory over Costa Rica. Neymar has been frustrated with the play of the national team, and he dropped to his knees and sobbed after the Costa Rica match.

Serbia understands that it needs spectacular play to continue its tournament.

FINALS

From Page 28

Michael Petrides (1:51.74). The Cook Islands' Wesley Roberts (1:51.21) and Australia's Aaron Mansfield (1:53.13) rounded out the Top 3.

Jinnosuke did not qualify to the finals, but finished ahead of 17 other swimmers and set a new PBT of 2:12.06 (from 2:12.59). Tenorio also got a PBT in the same event after posting 2:18.47 (from 2:22.59), while Nelson Batallones and Villacrusis timed in at 2:16.55 and 2:22.03, respectively, and were still in front of swimmers from PNG, the Federated States of Micronesia, Vanuatu, and New Zealand.

In the same event in the women's division, Thompson and Gauran defeated seven other swimmers and their times of 2:30.32 and 2:35.30 put them in the B Finals race, which took place last Tuesday afternoon.

Thompson then logged 2:29.58 in the finals for a new PBT (from 2:29.69), while Gauran had the same feat as her 2:32.81 broke her previous best of 2:33.46.

In the 100m backstroke, Tenorio shattered his PBT twice. In the preliminary swim, he checked in at 1:08.36 to surpass his record of 1:93.57 and advance to the B Finals where he reset his mark after tallying 1:07.54.

In other results, Jinnosuke got his second PBT just in the first day of the tournament after competing the lung-busting 1,500m freestyle race in 18:03.59. The CNMI bet was the youngest swimmer (12 years old) to do the event and managed to chop off more than 17 seconds from his old PBT (18:21.10). Australian and 21-year-old Ethan Owens ruled the event with a time of 15:49.46.

In the mixed 4x50m freestyle race, Gauran, Villacrusis, Thompson, and Lennosuke suited up for the CNMI and the quartet timed in at 1:56.95 to beat the Marshall Islands' Colleen Furgeson, Daniel Ranis, Philip Kinono, and Ann-Marie Hepler (1:50.64). New Zealand took the gold medal in the relay after Carter Swift, Paige Flynn, Rebecca Moynihan, and Daniel Caldwell posted 1:41.16. Hawaii and Australia won the silver and bronze, respectively.

"Team NMI has been doing great here in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. We are so proud and incredibly honored to represent our island. We have been getting some personal bests, but most importantly every swim has been a learning opportunity. This is an amazing experience for us," head coach Jacoby Winkfield wrote on Saipan Swim Club's Facebook page to update their

SAKOVICH

From Page 28

He is now based in Hawaii and coaching Waiakea High School and Hilo Aquatics Club teams. In September this year, Sakovich will be inducted into the Class of 2018 of Hawaii Swimming Hall of Fame, along with Ulirch Klinke, Shige Pabila, Altom Motobu, Mark Takai, Siu Lan Ellsworth, Charlie Oda, Ken Walsh, Catherine Kleinschmidt, Willian Neunzig, Anita Rossing, Dennis Rowe, Karlyn Pipes, Orlando Anaya, and Bob Via.

2018 Marianas Classic

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, 2018 Marianas Classic host and IT&E sales manager Hans Mickelson, Low Net runner-up Ron Benavente, champion Federico Flores, and IP&E's Victor Cruz pose for a photo during the awards ceremony of the inaugural event last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

From left, IT&E CNMI general manager Rose Soledad, Bank of Guam vice president/CNMI regional manager Marcie Tomokane, IT&E engineering and plant technical services manager Velma Palacios, and IT&E customer service manager Janice Tenorio pose for a photo while waiting for the awards ceremony to start.

Low Gross winner Ryan Kim, fourth left, receives his trophy and cash prize and is joined in the awards ceremony by runner-up Edward Lee, and third placer Freddie Cataluna.

Dung Tenorio, left, receives one of the closest to the pin awards from event host Hans Mickelson.

Bank of Guam's chief executive officer Joaquin Cook, right, delivers a brief message during the awards presentation and is joined in the stage by IT&E chief executive officer James Oehlerking.

Ladies Low Gross runner-up Yoo Chang Hee, left, and champion Yuko Togawa are all smiles after getting their prizes.

IT&E chief executive officer James Oehlerking, second left, Bank of Guam's chief executive officer Joaquin Cook, right, and IP&E managing director Brian Bamba, sixth left, pose with United Airlines representatives and the winner of the raffle prize sponsored by the latter.

IP&E managing director Brian Bamba briefs the crowd on why his company, IT&E, and Bank of Guam came up with an idea of having a golf tournament that benefits the community.

Nadal aims to end Wimbledon misfortunes

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Magic: I'll step down if I don't land free agents

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Messi finally scores, Argentina advances

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP)—From his thigh to his foot to the back of the net, Lionel Messi finally scored a goal at this year's World Cup.

The exquisite strike from the Argentina great sparked the first of several celebrations from an animated Diego Maradona, who screamed, shouted and made obscene gestures—and raised concerns for his health.

Argentina staved off elimination with a 2-1 victory over Nigeria on Tuesday, getting a late goal from Marcos Rojo. Maradona showed both middle fingers to the crowd after the 86th-minute winner.

A short time later, videos posted on social media showed Maradona needing help out of the stands and into an adjoining luxury box at the stadium. He appeared to have his eyes closed and a later photo showed a pair of paramedics attending to him.

There was no immediate information on his health, but about two hours later he was photographed smiling at an airport. Another photo posted on Twitter appeared to show him sitting on a plane.

Messi's goal—his 65th for Argentina—was surely enough to impress even Maradona.

From a long pass over the defense by Ever Banega, Messi caressed the ball with his left thigh, took another touch with his left foot, and then delivered a smooth right-footed finish into the corner.

Messi fell to his knees and pointed his fingers upward in celebration. At the same time, Maradona crossed his arms with his hands on his shoulders and looked to the sky.

"I knew that God is with us," Messi said, "and he wouldn't let us get eliminated."

Messi, who later hit the

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AP

Argentina's Lionel Messi celebrates after scoring the opening goal of his team during the group D match at the 2018 soccer World Cup in the St. Petersburg Stadium in St. Petersburg, Russia, Tuesday, June 26, 2018.

Finals stints, PBTs for swimmers

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Jinju Thompson, seen here racing in a local tournament early this year, made it to the finals and set a personal best time in the 200m freestyle event of the 12th Oceania Swimming Championships last Tuesday in Papua New Guinea.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CNMI swimmers were off to a good start in the 12th Oceania Swimming Championships after earning finals appearances and personal best times last Tuesday in Papua New Guinea.

Christian Villacrusis, Lennosuke Suzuki, Jinju Thompson, Sophia Gauran, and Juhn Tenorio marched into the finals of their respective events in the opening day of the biennial competition being held at the Taurama Aquatic and Indoor Centre in Port Moresby.

Villacrusis competed in the 200m breaststroke event and clocked in at 2:50.51 to finish seventh in the preliminary round and advance to the finals. In the medal race, the 18-year-old swimmer registered 4:46.70, surpassing not only his preliminary time, but also his previous PBT (2:49.95). New Zealand's Jonathan Rutter (2:15.54) topped the event and was followed by Fij's Taichi Vakasama (2:17.39) and Australia's Finn O'Connor (2:18.70).

In the 200m freestyle event, Lennosuke joined the junior division and timed in at 2:07.83 (No. 14 out of 37) to beat 23 other swimmers, including his brother Jinnosuke, and moved into the B Finals. The older Suzuki managed to better his prelim time after touching the wall at the 2:07.80 mark in the finals, which was won by Hawaii's

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Sakovich honored in PNG

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Swim Club founder and CNMI Sports Hall of Famer Bill Sakovich got a well-deserved recognition at the opening of the 12th Oceania Swimming Championships last Tuesday in Papua New Guinea.

Sakovich was introduced at the biennial meet as the "Father of Swimming in the Pacific," a title given to him by the United Nations late last year.

"All I can say right now is I am extremely happy about it. It was announced here at the Oceania Swimming meeting, which I am attending with Team Hawaii," Sakovich said in a brief message sent to *Saipan Tribune*.

The swimming legend was recognized by the UN for his more than four decades of coaching swimmers in the region and for volunteering his time and effort in various regional and international tournaments and clinics.

On Saipan, Sakovich and his wife Jean established SSC and helped train and produced swimmers that brought honors to the CNMI, including his son and Olympian Jon.

Sakovich also served as president of Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association (now Northern Marianas Sports Association) and was the lead organizers of other major sporting events in the CNMI, such as the Tagaman Triathlon and XTERRA Saipan.

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SAIPAN SWIM CLUB PHOTO

"Father of Swimming in the Pacific" Bill Sakovich gives instructions to Saipan Swim Club members in this undated photo taken at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.